NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

FEBRUARY 2025 SNOW HAS ARRIVED!

SEE THE NEW MEMBERSHIP DETAILS & BENEFITS ON PAGE 11

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

$5.16 per issue
Digital & Print
$6.50 per issue
The subscriber will get both the monthly printed paper and digital access
$62/YEAR In-State
$77/YEAR Out of State

THE NORTHERN ISLANDER IS GOING DIGITAL. LEARN MORE ON PAGE 2

SAYING GOODBYE TO JIMMY CARTER

OUR OWN WIL CWIKIEL COVERS THE FUNERAL IN D.C. ON PAGE 12

THE BEAVER ISLAND TRANSPORTATION (BITA) PROVIDES AN UPDATE ON THE NEW FERRY

READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

CHECK OUT THE SUPERBOWL FUN ON PAGE 31

OUR BEAT REPORTER LOOKS AT LYNDON TOWNSHIP'S BROADBAND SOLUTION ON PAGE 29

BIA
Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

THE BEAVER ISLAND HOUSING TASKFORCE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

SEE PAGE 5

GET YOUR COPY OF THE 2ND EDITION OF THE BEAVER BEACON

CONTACT THE MUSEUM OR SNAG ONE AT MCDONOUGH'S MARKET

2024 BEACON HAS ARRIVED
Get your copy at the Beaver Island Historical Society or McDonough's Market
Or call for shipment
231-448-2254
2024 Edition $10.00
Beaver Beacon
The Island Magazine Since 1955
2024

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

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After a few mild winter months, the snow arrived and sure did make a statement. Welcome to Michigan! Limited flights have kept islanders here, and while the frigid temperatures kept us busy both shoveling and cold, we always make the best of it. In fact, it sure did not deter our community from keeping the island progressing forward and socially rewarded with plenty of activities for all ages. We hope you enjoy our stories and pictures of all the wonderful events that transpired in January as well as the upcoming activities planned for February. As always, we encourage your feedback and ideas as it is our sole purpose to serve, entertain, and inform our audience.

As we recently announced, the BIHS has been working on enhancing our platform by the introduction of a new online solution offering that will enable our subscribers to have access to a digital solution. Currently, we are in the development phase and are testing the site in preparation for a roll-out within the next month. The updated pricing and packages are shown below. You will receive a letter from the Northern Islander with a reminder of when your subscription will expire. It is also listed on your current paper. If you would like to renew, feel free to contact The BIHS at 231-448-2254 or visit our website at.beaverislandhistory.org.

The Beaver Island Historical Society is committed to the success of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island. We have grand plans for our future but we can't do it alone. We appreciate your continued support and contributions, as you all play a significant role in propelling this publication forward.

A few highlights as we enter 2025:

- Working to implement an online solution for the Northern Islander with a new package/pricing structure
- Having the ability to push real-time updates and news for those with a captured email address
- Continuing to engage and empower local journalism/story-telling through the lens of island history and culture
- Igniting passion in our youth to embrace and fuel their future potential
- Educating our subscribers and visitors on the rich history of Beaver Island
- Highlighting the amazingly unique community that is infused in Island DNA
- Marketing our local small business community with their outstanding support to our collective Island needs
- Reporting timely local relevant news, announcements, and community events
- The completion of the second issue of the Beaver Beacon

Please reach out if you have suggestions and or ideas for the future issues of the Northern Islander. Enjoy your February and we look forward to sharing our stories and to see you all on the island. Stop in and say "hello".

Kind Regards,
Amy Marschner

Print Shop Perspective

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES- OVERVIEW OF KEY FOCUS AREAS IN 2025

Membership Renewals

Maintaining and growing our membership base is essential to the success of our institution. As we approach the new year, we will be launching a renewed effort this month to engage with both current and potential members. Our strategy includes personalized outreach, and exclusive member-only events. By strengthening our membership community, we can ensure continued support and involvement in our various programs and initiatives. Please see page 11 for the updated membership form.

2025 Programming

The year 2025 promises to be a vibrant and dynamic period for our organization. Our programming will encompass a diverse array of activities and events designed to cater to all segments of our audience. From interactive workshops and lectures to hands-on activities and cultural celebrations, we aim to foster an environment of learning, exploration, and community engagement. Our team is working diligently to finalize a calendar of events that will be both stimulating and inclusive. Museum Week this year will feature a Protar themed line-up. A full event calendar will be published in the March paper.

Speaker Series

We are excited to announce the continuation of our highly acclaimed Speaker Series. This initiative brings together renowned experts, thought leaders, and innovators to share their insights and experiences with our audience. The 2025 Speaker Series will cover a wide range of topics, including history, science, arts, and contemporary issues. By providing a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange, we hope to inspire and educate our community. Please join us via Zoom on 2/27 @ 7 PM for a session about James Strang. We are collaborating with the Grand Traverse Lighthouse and the speakers are Miles Harvey, Stef Staley and myself. A zoom link will be posted on our website and social media in the coming weeks.

Kids Camp

Our Kids Camp is a cornerstone of our educational outreach efforts, offering children a unique opportunity to learn and grow in a fun and supportive environment. The 2025 Kids Camp will feature an expanded curriculum that includes science experiments, art projects, outdoor adventures, and cultural activities. Our goal is to ignite curiosity and foster a love of learning in our youngest participants. We are also committed to making the camp accessible to all children, regardless of their background or financial situation.

Educational Outreach

Education is at the heart of our mission, and we are dedicated to reaching as many individuals as possible through our outreach programs. In 2025, we will be expanding our partnerships with local schools, community organizations, and other educational institutions. We are proud to partner with Northern Michigan University's Archaeological Field School and Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Field School this May.

Beaver Head Lighthouse Restoration

The Beaver Head Lighthouse is a cherished landmark with a rich history, and its restoration is one of our top priorities. We are undertaking a comprehensive restoration project with a goal to preserve the lighthouse for future generations. This involves structural repairs, historical preservation, and the development of educational programs and exhibits centered around the lighthouse's history and significance. Community involvement will be key to the success of this project, and we will be organizing volunteer opportunities and fundraising events to support our efforts. Please contact Lori-Taylor Blitz at 231-448-2254 with any questions.

Suggestions for Museum Exhibits or Events

We believe that our museum should reflect the interests and passions of our community. Therefore, we are actively seeking suggestions for new exhibits and events. Whether it is a particular historical period, a scientific discovery, an art movement, or a cultural celebration, we welcome your ideas and input. By incorporating diverse perspectives and voices, we can create a museum experience that is engaging, relevant, and enriching for all visitors.

Conclusion

As we look ahead to 2025, we are filled with enthusiasm and optimism. The initiatives outlined in this report represent our commitment to growth, education, and community engagement. We invite you to join us on this journey and contribute to the success of our programs and projects. Together, we can make a meaningful impact and ensure that our organization continues to thrive and inspire.

THE BEAVER ISLAND
Historical Society
WELCOMES YOU TO JOIN THE
100th
ANNIVERSARY
OF FEODOR PROTAR
THE BIHS WILL HONOR HIS LIFE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BEAVER ISLAND WITH A COMMEMORATIVE-THEMED MUSEUM WEEK.
ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE UNVEILED AS WE GET CLOSER TO JULY 2025.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - BIHS MUSEUM WEEK

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Seeking
VOLUNTEERS
To help with the Protar Anniversary
Event: Protar Days during Museum Week
What: 6 volunteers to sing and 6 volunteers to read
Where: Print Shop Museum
When: July 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.
Contact: BIHS Museum at 231-448-2254
BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
100th ANNIVERSARY
FEODOR PROTAR

The Beaver Island Historical Society is proud and honored to have received donations for loved ones who appreciated the museum and our services to the community.

In Memory Of

MIKE PERDUE
MABEL & AJ ROY
PETER OWEN & ELIZABETH MCCAULEY
RITA MCCAULEY LONG

FRANCIS PIKE
JOE & BID SENDENBURGH
FRANCIS & ANNA RICKSGERS
BILL & BID RICKSGERS

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE BIHS FAMILY

By Melissa Wiatrolik

Melissa Wiatrolik niidishnaakas, Miigiza ndoodem, Odawa/Ojibway nishnabe endow, Apatawing didojibaa, Aapading endizhew mideoeow.

I just introduced myself in the Anishnaabemowin (Native American language) My name is Melissa Wiatrolik. I'm Eagle clan, I'm Ojibway/Odawa Native American, I come from Middle Village and I'm a Midewiwin woman. I currently accepted the Executive Assistant position for the Beaver Island Historical Society. I recently served as the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)/Tribal representative for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and Tribal representative/ Treasurer to the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) for 7 years.

I have completed training/mentorship on Historic Preservation with Wesley Andrews through Andrews Cultural Resources, and other wonderful training/certificate opportunities. I have worked for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians for about two decades. The first twelve years I worked as assistant to the Tribal Administrator assisting and overseeing 26 departments within the Tribal government, then worked one year within the Housing Department where I developed the training for Environmental Reviews for potential environmental impacts to cultural resources to determine whether Tribal housing projects meet federal, state, and local environmental standards. I'm grateful to be part of the Beaver Island Historical Society Team and look forward to all the events and getting to know the community.

A NEW FERRY UPDATE

By Bobbi Welke-Chair of the Beaver Island Transportation Authority

The Beaver Island Transportation Authority (BITA), a public organization, owns the M/V Emerald Isle. This vessel was designed and built using federal, state, and local funds, and she was launched in 1997. The Emerald Isle is operated by the Beaver Island Boat Company (BIBCO), a privately owned firm, under a management agreement with BITA.

BITA is a St. James Township organization founded in 1993 to establish a transit system in the greater Beaver Island area. When this organization was founded, Peaine Township officials declined the opportunity to join BITA.

In 2012, a new steel-hulled ferry was designed in response to the projected growth of the Island and the aging 1962 Beaver Islander. Federal and State funding was awarded to BITA in 2022, 2023, and 2024 to build a new ferry.

As BITA and BIBCO considered new features to update this older design, state mobility experts proposed that our public/private partnership consider a new ferry with an alternative hull style made from lightweight materials and powered by hybrid engines. On January 14, 2025, the BITA Board approved a six-month planning effort to study and test this next-generation vessel option with multiple interchangeable operating elements. This vessel could run rigged for freight on one trip and solely for passengers on the next or split the same trip with a combination of passengers and freight.

There is a possibility that this next-generation vessel, if approved, would be designed and built by a firm based in Michigan. A prototype version (40' long, whereas our ferry will likely be longer) will be evaluated by the BITA/BIBCO new vessel committee members in March. If the planning phase yields favorable results, this same prototype will travel between Holland, Michigan and Beaver Island in mid-June for reviews by officials both during the run and at our dock. The boat will be on display and open for public tours for all islanders!

If the planning phase is successful, mid-July will mark the beginning of a design and construction phase for delivery of our Island's new ferry in the summer of 2027. If not, we will revert back to the former traditional ferry type, update the design and complete the construction. An update on this decision will be shared this summer.

This initiative is only part of the BITA/BIBCO plan. We will be meeting-with MDOT and other state officials to set the stage for more progressive, ongoing funding and address business issues such as onerous procurement rules. Other Michigan island ferry systems will be invited to join these discussions. By working together, we can improve ferry systems across Michigan.

Our strategic approach to a new modern ferry aligns with the 2024 State of the Great Lakes Report (https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/office-of-the-great-lakes/state-of-the- great-lakes-report). In the report, the article "Advancing Michigan's Blue–Green Economy and Environment" sets the stage for a new Michigan Maritime Strategy. Although the article does not specifically cover ferries, we are hopeful that our involvement in further developing this strategy will result in a future report highlighting our new ferry as part of Michigan's Blue-Green Economy and Environment.

Advancing Michigan's blue-green economy and environment
State collaborative leads the development of the Michigan Maritime Strategy

THE BEAVER ISLAND HOUSING TASKFORCE NEEDS TO BRIDGE THE FUNDING GAP FOR A TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

THE ISLAND'S HOUSING TASK FORCE IS SEEKING YOUR HELP TO BRIDGE A FUNDING GAP TO PAY FOR A RECENTLY COMPLETED TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE 15-ACRE ADOLPH PROPERTY—BEING DONATED TO DEVELOP MUCH-NEEDED SENIOR/WORKFORCE/VETERAN HOUSING FOR ISLANDERS. THE CURRENT GAP IS $2,700. CRAIG ADOLPH HAS GENEROUSLY OFFERED TO MATCH ANY DONATIONS—MAKING THE TOTAL NEEDED $1,350. DONATIONS SHOULD BE MADE VIA THE BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION (BIA) WEBSITE UNDER THE 'SUPPORT BIA' TAB. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!

THE BEAVER ISLAND HOUSING TASKFORCE

A Telescopic View of Dark Skies: It's more than just looking at the stars. Less than one year ago, DarkSky International granted 9,425.5 acres of Beaver Island the prestigious designation of being the 20th Dark Sky Sanctuary in the world—a recognition that places Beaver Island among a select group of communities committed to preserving their natural nightscapes.This achievement isn't just an accolade; it's a promise to future generations. The designation is held jointly by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Central Michigan University as land managers, and the Beaver Island Association as stewards of the sanctuary.

Dark Sky Sanctuary status underscores our dedication to protecting the unique environment and cultural identity of Beaver Island. For centuries, the stars have guided sailors, inspired storytellers, and connected our island to a shared human heritage. By safeguarding our dark skies, we're ensuring that future generations will experience the same wonder and inspiration that our ancestors did.

This designation also reinforces our role as stewards of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) biosphere region, where conservation and culture coexist. It creates opportunities for educational programs, eco-tourism, and community events that celebrate our heritage while fostering sustainable practices. Together, we can continue to shine as an example for the rest of the world in how to balance development with preservation.

As of November 2024, the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprises 759 sites across 136 countries. In the United States, there are 28 designated biosphere reserves. Within Michigan, there are only two areas that have been recognized as UNESCO biosphere reserves:*

1**. Isle Royale Biosphere Reserve:** Located in Lake Superior, this reserve encompasses Isle Royale National Park, known for its unique wilderness and diverse ecosystems.*

2. Obtawaing Biosphere Region: This region includes the University of Michigan Biological Station, in collaboration with Central Michigan University Biological Station, and surrounding areas, highlighting the ecological significance of Michigan"s northern Lower Peninsula and southeastern Upper Peninsula.*

These designations underscore Michigan's commitment to conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development within its unique natural landscapes.

Preserving Dark Skies for a Healthier Community

As the Supervisor of Peaine Township, I'm proud to say that Beaver Island's breathtaking night skies are one of our most treasured natural assets. However, preserving our dark skies is about more than just enjoying the stars—it's about supporting the health of our environment, community, and wildlife. Let's explore why dark skies matter and how we can protect them.

Did you know dark skies positively impact human health?

Excessive artificial light at night disrupts our natural circadian rhythms, which regulate sleep and other vital bodily functions. Poor sleep can lead to increased risks of chronic health issues such as obesity, depression, and cardiovascular disease. Shielded, low-intensity lighting can reduce these disruptions, allowing both island residents and visitors to enjoy restful nights and healthier lives.

Did you know more lighting doesn't necessarily reduce crime?

It might seem intuitive that bright lights deter crime, but research suggests otherwise. Overlighting can create shadows where criminals can hide and make it harder for people to see clearly. In contrast, well-designed lighting that minimizes glare and focuses on essential areas increases visibility and fosters a sense of security without contributing to light pollution.

Did you know light pollution disrupts wildlife?

Artificial lighting impacts the migration patterns of birds and the reproductive habits of land animals. Migratory birds often become disoriented by artificial lights, leading to collisions with structures or exhaustion and death. Similarly, lighting affects the mating and nesting behaviors of turtles, frogs, and other nocturnal creatures. By using wildlife-friendly lighting, we can help protect the delicate ecosystems that make Beaver Island so special.

Did you know there are affordable, dark-sky-friendly lighting options?

Advances in lighting technology have made it easier and more affordable than ever to adopt solutions that reduce light pollution. Motion-sensor lights, warm-colored LEDs as opposed to "cold" bulbs, and shielded fixtures are cost-effective options that promote safety while preserving the night sky. Simple changes, such as angling lights downward and using timers, can also make a big difference without breaking the bank.

What can you do to help?

Preserving our dark skies requires a collective effort. As a community, we can commit to using dark-sky-friendly lighting in our homes, businesses, and public spaces. By taking these steps, we ensure improved personal health, protection for migrating birds and wildlife, and that future generations can enjoy the beauty and benefits of a starry night.

Protecting our Dark Sky Sanctuary status is a commitment to ourselves, our children and grandchildren—a promise that they, too, will marvel at the stars as we do today. Let's work together to keep Beaver Island a haven for dark skies and a model for sustainable living, striving to become a recognized Dark Sky Community. Every small change contributes to a brighter—and darker—future.

Pancake Supper
COME JOIN OUR SPECIAL FAMILY DINNER WITH GAMES SUPPORTED BY THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY
WHERE: GREGG FELLOWSHIP CENTER
COST: FREE OF CHARGE. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE. BEAVER ISLAND FOOD PANTRY.
RIDES ARE AVAILABLE VIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION
CARRY OUT
Available
March 4
5-7 P.M.

BEAVER ISLAND COA UPDATE

By Your Beaver Island Advisory Committee

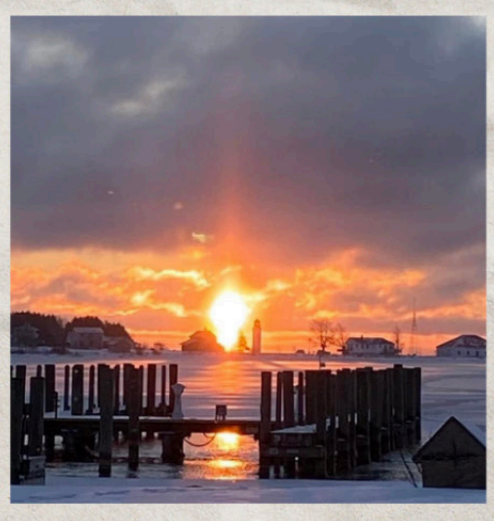
Issue No. 1 | Beaver Island Senior Advisory Committee | January 2025

ON THE BLOG

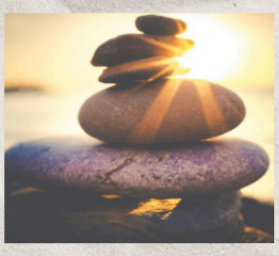
BEAVER ISLAND COA NEWS

GREAT THINGS IN THE WORKS

Our Senior Advisory Committee is working with the Charlevoix COA to continue to keep you up to date with food options offered and activities currently and coming up throughout the year! We meet as a committee once a month with County Commissioner Josh Chamberlain, COA Executive Director Amy Wieland, COA Assistant Director Sheri Shepard, Township Supervisor Bobbi Welke, Township Trustee and Advisor for our committee Paul Cole. Senior Advisor Co-Chairs Catherine Meintsma and Joe Callian, committee members Lisa Franz, Andy Stebbins,and Audrey VanDyke.



A MATTER OF BALANCE

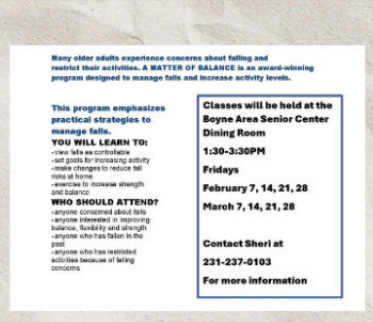


New Year-New You

Join us just once a month! THIRD Wednesday of every month. Every month we will be bringing you a new topic. This is brought to you by the MSU Extension Program.
We will have it available upstairs in The Hangout at the Community Center.
12:00-12:45pm. Then stay for B-I-N-G-O at 1:00pm with some guest callers!

We have had interest in the ""Matter Of Balance" classes.
We are working on making this program available on the island. The instructors are working on a virtual class that will be offered later this Spring or Summer. We will keep you updated.

Jan. 15, 2025 : Positive Attitude
Feb. 19, 2025 : Eating Smart and Healthy
March 19, 2025 : Physical Activity
April 16, 2025 : Brain Activity
May 21, 2025 : Social Activity
June 18, 2025 : Tuning-in to the times
July 16, 2025 : Safety
Aug. 20, 2025 : Know Your Health Numbers
Sept. 17, 2025 : Stress Management
Oct. 15, 2025 : Financial Affairs
Nov. 19, 2025 : Sleep
Dec. 17, 2025 : Taking Time for You


Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.
This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.
YOU WILL LEARN TO:
-view falls as controllable
-set goals for increasing activity
-make changes to reduce fall risks at home
-exercise to increase strength and balance
WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
-anyone concerned about falls
-anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
-anyone who has fallen in the past
-anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns
Classes will be held at the Boyne Area Senior Center Dining Room
1:30-3:30PM
Fridays
February 7, 14, 21, 28
March 7, 14, 21, 28
Contact Sheri at
231-237-0103
For more information

If you ever have any questions or ideas please reach out to the Charlevoix COA or our Beaver Island Senior Advisory Committee.

Charlevoix COA
231-237-0103

BEAVERISLANDADVISORYCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

BEAVER ISLAND RESIDENTS AGED 60 & OVER

If you need meal vouchers:
We will have vouchers available during the congregate meal on Friday, January 17 at the Gregg Fellowship Hall between 11:30AM-12:30PM.
You may also call 231-448-2124. We will be issuing vouchers from the mainland with a few special pop-up voucher sales dates on Beaver Island to be announced.
Hours to call:
Closed-Monday, January 20, 2025
Closed-Monday, February 17, 2025
Please Call-Monday-Friday, 8AM-3PM

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Beaver Island Food Delivery Program February 2025

BI VOUCHER PROGRAM:
Beaver Island residents aged 60 & over may purchase up to 10 Beaver Island Food Vouchers per month from the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging Office on BI by calling 231-448-2124 to use at the Beaver Island Community School , the Shamrock or the Wild Strawberry Cafe at a cost of $3 each.

Cold Alternative Meal
Week of:
February 5*-Tuna Pasta Salad
February 10-Chicken BLT Wrap
February 18*-Chef Salad
February 24-Roast Beef & Cheddar Wrap
*Meal coming on Wednesday, February 5th instead of Monday, February 3rd & We are closed Monday, February 17, delivery will be Tuesday, February 18.
$3 per Meal

February Congregate Meal
Friday, February 14
Sign-up by calling
231-448-2124

ORDERING MEALS:
To order a combination of fresh & frozen meals (up to 5 total) please call by Friday at 10AM (meals delivered to Island Air the following Monday morning**) Call 231-448-2124 or email Sheri at shepards@charlevoixcounty.org
**Meals will be delivered on Wednesday, February 5 for the week of February 3

Pick-Up My Fresh /Frozen MEALS:
The meals ordered will be available for pick-up at Island Airways Mondays* by 11:30AM. The delivery of meals is weather dependent. Delays possible with inclement weather.
*Meals will be sent on Wednesday 5th instead of Monday the 3rd & Closed Monday, February 17, delivery will be Tuesday, February 18

Beaver Island Inquiries-231-448-2124

Surprise someone with a Happy Birthday Sign in their front yard!

Beaver Island National Honor Society will put up the signs the night before

Make a donation of $10, $20, $50 or a custom amount to Build a Cure For Brain Cancer
Donate at https://www.bacresearch.org/fundraising, write a check to BAC or pay cash

***If you want the birthday sign for a friend, neighbors, or someone that might like to wake up to a Birthday sign* Contact:**
Alyssa Martin, NHS President
BI Community School NHS Adviser Connie Boyle
(231) 313-9053
Fundraising Co-Chair Michelle LaFreniere

Pierre wants to know if you have a story? Share it with us! To submit your piece for consideration, email our Editor at editor@beaverislandhistory.org

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT FEBRUARY ON BEAVER ISLAND?

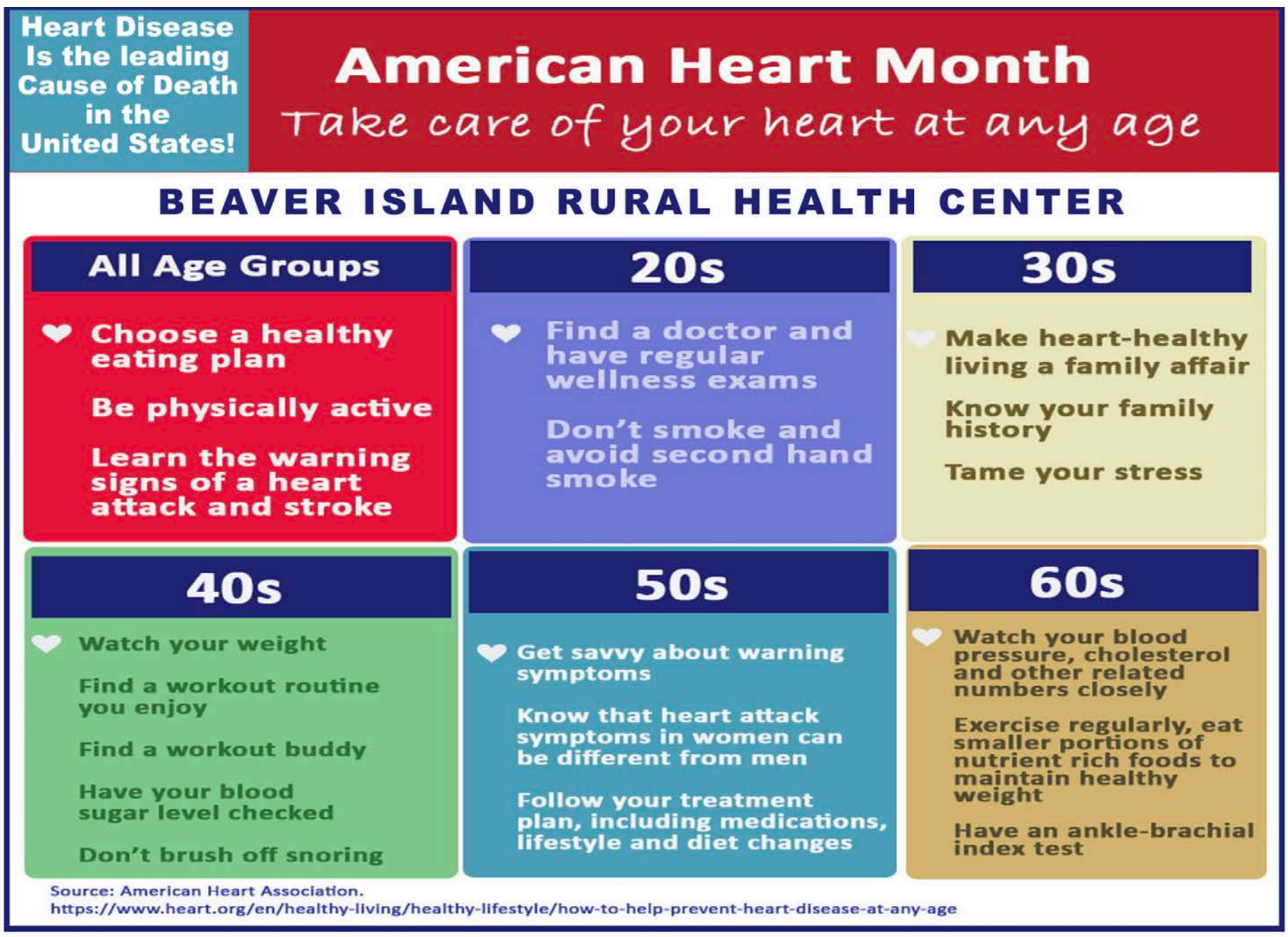
By Frank D'Andraia

Welcome to February, a short month that has a long list of state and federal holidays, observances, celebrations, and special events like Super Bowl Sunday. But hey, there's more to February than looking for your shadow on February 2 (Groundhog Day), romancing on February 14 (Valentines Day), or toasting National Margarita Day on February 22, for February on Beaver island is the month that the island's health center arranges for all school age children to have a free dental check up, including a cleaning, exam, x-rays, and important preemptive treatments, namely fluoride varnishes and sealants. The free dental work is done on the island by the Dental Clinics North clinicians. DCN operates a clinic within the Island's Rural Health Center complex. Since 2021 the free dental check up for children has had a brace of supporters chief among which is local lodge #2886 of the the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Other participants have included center donors, such as the Johnson family of Peaine Township and Ann Arbor and the Richard J. and Frances B. Swiat Foundation, a private foundation, located in Northport, Michigan.

Lori Taylor-Blitz, Vice President of the Health Center Board of Directors and a member of local Elks Lodge #2886 noted the Elks are always looking for appropriate ways to give back to the community. She added, "I know our membership is delighted to demonstrate our value to the community by partnering with the Health Center to offer a fourth cycle of funding for a very valuable and consequential project.

Ann Partridge, the health center's managing director, said the DCN dentist assigned to the island will see children on February 27 and 28 and the community school will begin distributing the necessary forms that will allow parents to secure appointments for their school age children in early February.

"Frank D'Andraia, President of the Health Center Board of Directors indicated that because of the increased popularity of the center's dental service, the acquisition of newer Dental Patient Chairs, Dental Operatory Lights and other related equipment are to be acquired. The delivery and installation of the new dental equipment is expected to occur sometime after ferry service resumes in April." The health center's board of directors, according to D'Andraia, are gratified to learn that nearly all school age children at the island's community school have been participating in the center's dental initiative and rightly so, for February is also known as Children's Dental Health Month. D'Andraia added, "Like folkloric figure of the tooth fairy, whose mythical work is celebrated on February 28, the health center is working hard to improve existing medical and dental services, as well as offer new services as the island continues to develop and grow."


Heart Disease Is the leading Cause of Death in the United States!
American Heart Month
Take care of your heart at any age
BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER
All Age Groups
Choose a healthy eating plan
Be physically active
Learn the warning signs of a heart attack and stroke
20s
Find a doctor and have regular wellness exams
Don't smoke and avoid second hand smoke
30s
Make heart-healthy living a family affair
Know your family history
Tame your stress
40s
Watch your weight
Find a workout routine you enjoy
Find a workout buddy
Have your blood sugar level checked
Don't brush off snoring
50s
Get savvy about warning symptoms
Know that heart attack symptoms in women can be different from men
Follow your treatment plan, including medications, lifestyle and diet changes
60s
Watch your blood pressure, cholesterol and other related numbers closely
Exercise regularly, eat smaller portions of nutrient rich foods to maintain healthy weight
Have an ankle-brachial index test
Source: American Heart Association.
https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/how-to-help-prevent-heart-disease-at-any-age

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

With a chilly January behind us, your Community Center beckons with enticing indoor programs for Valentine's month, including lots of movies and two new programs! We've got an outline of events for you here, but please check out the Community Calendar at biccenter.org for further details and updates.

First up on February 1 is a return of last year's St. Brigid's Cross-making workshop, led by Cindy Cushman. Participants will learn how to craft traditional small, woven crosses in honor of Ireland's patroness saint to mark St. Brigid's Day, or Imbolc, the half-way point between winter and spring. Other traditional elements of the Celtic holiday will be part of the workshop with snacks provided, and the program will be followed by a screening of the documentary Finding Brigid in the BIC Center theater. Later that day at 6:00 PM, our Saturday Movie will feature The Fall Guy, a 2024 action-comedy starring Ryan Gosling based on the 1980's TV series.

More movies are on schedule the next Saturday, February 8 to honor Black History Month. Our double-feature includes The Six Triple Eight, a 2024 WWII drama about the 688th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-Black and all-female battalion, followed by the documentary Hitsville: the Making of Motown.

Let's Get Quizzical Trivia Night hits on the 11th; the 12th showcases a special Valentine-themed Time for Art class; and on the 14th itself, a ' Galentine's Party' built around a sing-along showing of the classic musical film Moulin Rouge rolls out. The 15th leads with a screening of the iconic romantic comedy 10 Things I Hate About You, and the 22nd hosts another movie collaboration with the Library, joining a Book Club pick with a film version of the same, details to be announced. Plus a second monthly Trivia Night hits in the upstairs Hangout on the 22nd.

We've got two new programs at BIC Center in the new year, both of which began last month: Qi Gong (pronounced "chi gong"), a traditional, ancient Chinese medicine practice using gentle movement, meditation, and breathing to promote mental, physical, and spiritual health is led by the talented Tina Carlton, happening at 5:00 PM Mondays. And Kim Warner will lead what hopes to be a repeating workshop in Improv Comedy for a night of fun, thinking on your feet, and laughs. Updates on that program will be added as more details emerge. All in all it's another full month in the place at the heart of a great community. See you at the Community Center !

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

FEBRUARY IS

Stop into the library to pick up a Love Your Library Bingo card and start reading for a BINGO! When you do, we will give you a prize!

Week One: Let's get started baking. This week is all about the basics of baking. Review the building blocks of baking and start from scratch!
Week Two: Bake for my Valentine. Love and Friendship is in the air. Let's celebrate the ones you love by baking up something special.
Week Three: Baking for Others. Baking for others can increase a feeling of well-being, contribute to stress relief and make you feel like you've done something good for the world, which perhaps increases your meaning in life and connection with other people. Let's make some positive change in the lives of others this week.
Week Four: Baking History and Traditions. Building a family baking history and traditions may be starting with you, or it may go way back to some family members from many years ago. Bake something from your family traditions.

Black History Month 2025 theme is African Americans and Labor

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work.

Libraries and bookstores — not to mention online repositories and booksellers — are positively overflowing with amazing works of Black literature, history, and biography. Find a book about a piece of Black history that you were previously unaware of and get educated.

5 SUPER INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BLACK AMERICAN HISTORY

- **Rosa Parks wasn'tt the first**- Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old girl, refused to move to the back of a bus nine months before Parks did.
- **MLK improvised his most famous speech**- Although he had prepared notes, Martin Luther King Jr. improvised much of his "I Have A Dream" speech.
- **Esther came before Betty-**The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was modeled after a Harlem jazz singer named Esther Jones.
- **There were Black senators in the 19th century-** The first Black U.S. senator was Hiram Revels, who took office in 1870.
- **Satchel Paige was baseball's first black hall-of-famer**- Pitcher Satchel Paige was the first Black player to be inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

WINTER SOWING- Lois Campbell's First and Second grade class came to the library to start a winter sowing project with Monica Longlet for our Native Plant garden. Monica Longlet shared her passion for gardening with the 1st and 2nd graders this month. The kids took part in a hands-on activity learning about winter seed sowing. Each student made their own mini greenhouse using milk jugs. They have planted purple flower cones which will be a part of our native plant garden in front of our building.

LIBRARY PALS RETURNED on Jan. 15 Mrs. Bedell's class enjoyed the company of our reading pals partners on Jan. 15. The kids love to bring a book of their choosing and share the stories and smiles with our pals. Thanks to all who volunteer to read with the kids. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to us and let us know.

A New Contest for Fiero Coding- New people welcome! Local prizes will be awarded for First, second and third place! Begins Feb. 1- March 31. Open for kids through 12th grade.

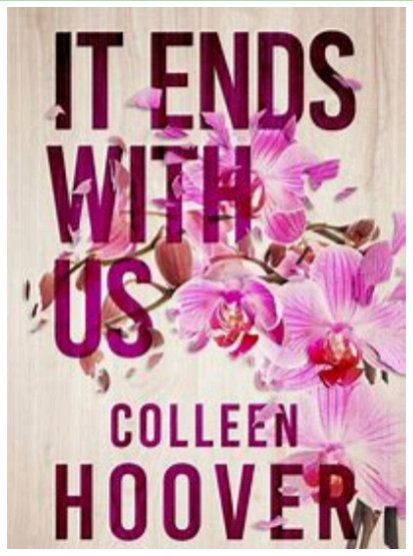
You can work on your own or at the Library. Fiero Code is free and you can learn to code in a variety of languages. Ages 8+. There is also a Bootcamp for older teens and adults to prepare you for a career in coding. Check it out at the library!

BOOK vs MOVIE February event

We've teamed up with BIC Center to highlight the Book vs Movie series. Every month we will offer the book to read, BIC Center will play the movie and host a group discussion afterwards sharing opinions and comparisons.

Feb 8th we are highlighting two picks. We Bought a Zoo will be shown at 3 p.m. followed by the discussion.

We Bought a Zoo. A true story: Benjamin Mee decided to uproot his family and move them to an unlikely new home- a dilapidated zoo with over 200 exotic animals as their new neighbors- his friends and colleagues thought he was crazy.



It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover. Evening show time at the BIC center, 6 p.m. A brave and heartbreaking novel that digs its claws into you and doesn't let go, long after you've finished it" (Anna Todd, New York Times bestselling author) about a young woman in a new relationship who can't stop thinking about her first love.

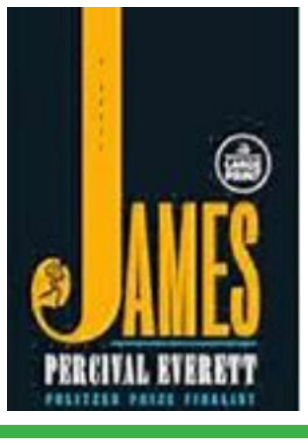
ONGOING:

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Babies and Toddlers Mixup

2:30 p.m. Story Time

Saturdays: 2 p.m. Fiero Code Club

Feb. 19th: 3 p.m.: BOBI book club- James by Percival Everett



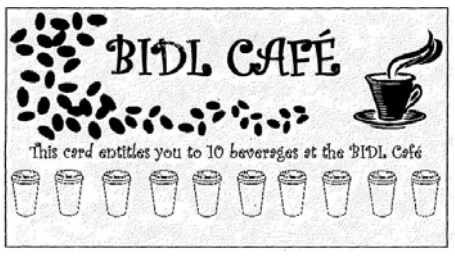
FUN AT THE BIDL

Our December Teen/Tween Cafe was a sweet treat as we decorated wooden gingerbread houses. The kids turned the houses into sugar wrapped wonderlands. Creativity was abundant with churches, reindeer and candy cane shingles to name a few. Have your teen/tween join us for our next Cafe on Feb. 8 from 2pm-4pm. The Book vs Movie event will be "We Bought a Zoo".

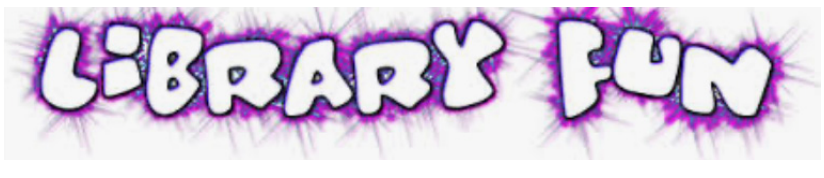
BINGO! Our 1st Family Bingo was a huge success. 20 participants of all ages enjoyed the excitement and prizes. Yelling BINGO and a megaphone are not your everyday library sounds but it was wonderful for this librarian to host such a unique event. I will be sure to host it again next winter.

TEEN/TWEEN CAFE

Feb. 8 from 1pm-3 pm we will be hosting our Teen/Tween Cafe. This Cafe will be animal themed to partner with We Bought a Zoo. We will be making 3D paper animals, enjoying some animal cookies and hot cocoa.



Don't carry cash but sometimes want to purchase a hot chocolate, coffee or tea at the Library? Purchase a Cafe card for $10. We will keep it here and you tell us when you want to use it! Easy!



BIHS MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Joining the Beaver Island Historical Society as a new member or renewing your existing membership can be a rewarding experience. Whether you are looking to connect with like-minded museum individuals, access exclusive resources, or contribute to a cause you care about, understanding the processes involved can help you make the most of your membership.

To maximize the value of your membership, consider the following tips:

- **Engage**: Attend events, join committees, and participate in discussions to connect with other members and build your network.
- **Stay Informed**: Keep up with the latest news and developments within the organization by reading newsletters, emails, and other communications.
- **Utilize Resources**: Take advantage of the resources available to you, such as the reference library, archives, and speaker series.
- **Contribute:** Volunteer for projects or offer your expertise to help the organization achieve its goals and make a positive impact.

Joining an organization and staying actively involved can open doors to new experiences, knowledge, and relationships. Whether you are just starting as a new member or renewing your commitment, embrace the possibilities and make the most of your membership journey.

MEMBERSHIP PLANS

Student/Senior/Veteran $25____ Individual $35 ____ Couple $50 _____

Family $100____

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

- 10% discount on all gift shop purchases
- Free member access to the reference library, including ancestry.com
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Free admission to the two Beaver Island Historical museums and the two historical sites: Print Shop Museum & Marine Museum
- The Protar Home
- Beaver Head Light House

Sustaining Membership $250

- Same as above membership benefits, plus a complimentary copy of the annual Beaver Beacon
- Personal Invitation to the annual Beaver Island Historical Society annual meeting in August
- Personal Invitation to members only new exhibit events

Benefactor $500

- Same as above membership benefits
- Subscription to the Northern Islander (print and digital)
- Personal Invitation to Guest Speaker Private Reception

Corporate Membership $750

- Recognition at all live events and on the Beaver Island Historical Society website
- Option to host your Holiday gathering at the Print Shop Museum
- Reserve the Print Shop conference room for your meetings between October 1 and April 30.
- In Kind memberships are available. Please make arrangements with the Executive Director

For more information about membership, please call Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director at (231) 448-2254 or email her at director@beaverislandhistory.org.

I would like to become a member of the Beaver Island Historical Society

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

___ Student/Senior/Veteran $25 ____ Individual $35 ____ Couple $50

___ Family $100 ____ Sustaining $250 ____ Benefactor $500_____

___ Corporate $750 ____ In Kind – Discuss with Executive Director

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Name_____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone Number_____

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT CARTER

By Wifred Cwikiel

I first met President Carter in Nicaragua in October of 1996. He was there observing the Nicaraguan General Election with a delegation of the Freely Elected Heads of Government coordinated by the Carter Center. I was there with a group of leadership fellows from the Kellogg Foundation. As the Kellogg Fellows were walking out of the InterContinental Hotel late in the evening, President Carter was walking in. Of course, we were excited to meet President Carter and wanted to spend as much time in the lobby talking with him as possible. However, he had other plans: the Atlanta Braves were playing game two of the 1996 World Series against the Yankees the next afternoon, and he was on an early morning flight the next day to get back to Atlanta for the game.

To our great fortune, one of the Kellogg Fellows happened to be Michelle Nunn, currently the executive director of CARE, but at the time she was the executive director at Hands On Atlanta, an organization that engages thousands of volunteers in the Atlanta area each year. President Carter and Michelle had worked together on many projects, and their families had long been friends (Michelle's dad, Sam, had served the State of Georgia as Senator for 25 years—including during the time when Carter was President). President Carter, knowing Michelle and seeing our interest in having an audience with him, offered to meet with us in Atlanta as soon as he and Michelle could coordinate their schedules.

My admiration for President Carter started long before I met him in Managua. The presidential campaign of 1976 was memorable for me because of the battles that were waged in our household. My mom was a huge Carter fan and my dad firmly believed that President Ford should be re-elected on his merits. The fact that President Ford was from Michigan played heavily in my dad's perspective. I remember the arguments between them, and sided with my mom, and not only because she let me read an interview in a particular magazine that I otherwise was forbidden to touch. Throughout his presidency, we followed along in the news and listened to NPR while she cooked dinner and I did my homework. During his presidency, he was honest, forthright, struck a peace accord between Egypt and Israel that lasts to this day, tried heal our nation reeling from Watergate, and brought honor to elected office. In short, he was one of my childhood heroes.

My admiration only deepened after meeting him in Atlanta. We wanted to hear about his work negotiating peace deals (he had recently negotiated a cease fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina), building houses with Habitat for Humanity, and addressing disease in Africa. He, on the other hand, wanted to hear about the work that we were doing in our communities. He was authentic, humble, compassionate, and clearly committed to his family and the greater community of humanity. There was no hint that he was jaded by politics. Rather, he was a paragon of how to live a life of love, integrity, and service. I walked away from that meeting struck by his generosity of spirit, his sense of humor, and his commitment to doing as much as he could to make the world a better place with each day that God had decided to give him.

When I heard that President Carter had passed, I knew I had to pay tribute to his life of service—both because his leadership inspired me and because I knew my mom would have moved heaven and earth to be there if she were alive. Fortunately, my friends knew how much this would mean to me. My wife Gail received a text from friends in Bethesda, Maryland offering a place to stay during the ceremonies.

A friend of mine who is a Carter Center trustee texted to see if I was going to DC. And Michelle Nunn, the person who first introduced me to President Carter, called and asked if I would like to join her for the State Funeral services at the Washington National Cathedral.

So that is a bit of background to what became a whirl wind trip to Washington D.C. in early January. After arriving at Washington National, I took the Metro to the Capitol. After dropping my bags at a storage locker, I joined the gathering crowd along Pennsylvania Avenue to bear witness to President Carter's flag-draped casket being carried on a horse-drawn caisson from the Navy Memorial to the United States Capitol. As we waited for the procession to begin, there was time to greet others who had come to pay their respects. I met a family from Rhode Island who had driven to D.C . that morning to celebrate the life of Jimmy Carter. I met a man from just outside of D.C. who had taken the day off work so that he could represent his family celebrating all that was good about America. His family had emigrated from Poland in the early 1980s when it was still under communist control. I met a couple from Utah who had flown in to honor a man whose faith guided his service in a way that served as a role model to other people of faith.

When the U.S. Army Band, Pershing's Own, began marching from the Navy Memorial, the chit- chat among those gathered along Pennsylvania Avenue ceased and a serene quiet came over the entire city. It was as if every living thing stopped to honor the life of James Earl Carter, Jr. The Old Guard stood at attention while the horse-drawn caisson worked its way to the Capitol. Pershing's Own and the Marine Honor Guard set the austere tone for the occasion. Regardless of where we were from, or why we were there, everyone gathered along Pennsylvania Avenue was bound together by the solemnity of the moment and united by our appreciation for the life and legacy of President Carter. As President Carter's flag-draped casket passed by, we walked in silence along with the procession as far as we could (there were security barriers set up to limit access to the Capitol).

Replica of The Spirit of Freedom in the Capitol Visitors Center.

While President Carter's casket was taken into the Rotunda for a special memorial service for members of Congress and the Supreme Court Justices, I walked to the Tune Inn Restaurant and Bar, a Capitol Hill institution since 1947, for dinner and to warm up. The Rotunda would not be open for members of the public to pay respects to President Carter until later that evening. After a burger and some tater tots slathered in chili, I headed back over to the Capitol to wait in line. I was impressed with how well the Capitol Police had organized the queue for entering the Rotunda to see President Carter laying in state. There were actually four different successive queueing areas, starting about a half-mile from the Capitol. This had two beneficial effects. First, you never really had to wait in a line very long, as you were moving in an organized fashion from one area to the next. Secondly, all the folks waiting in line were spread out over several different areas that were each protected by vehicle barriers, thus reducing the risk of an attack on those waiting in line.

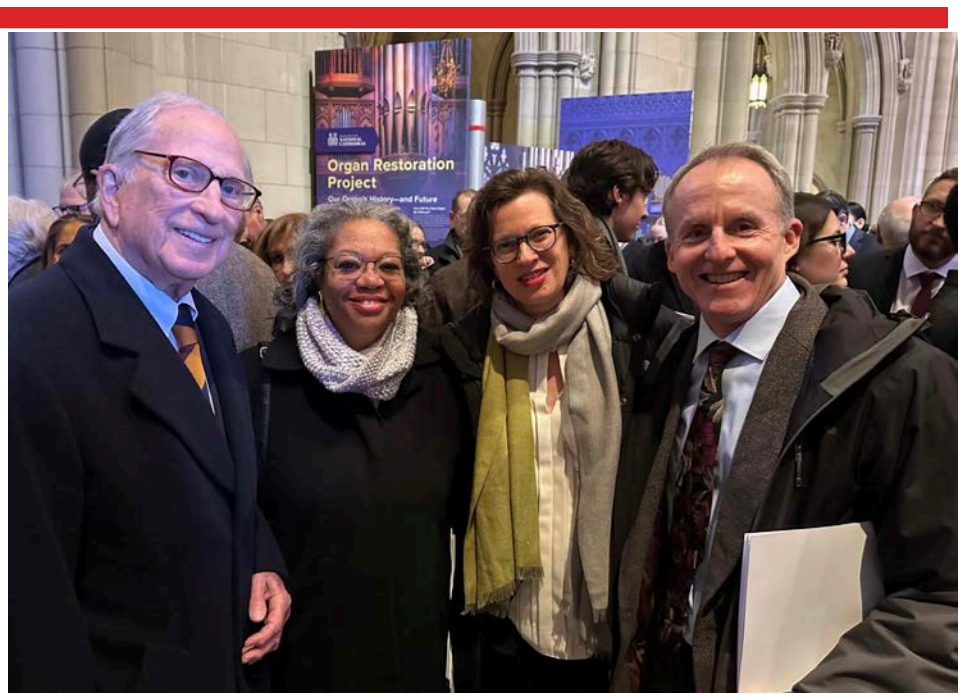
As with the crowd gathered on Pennsylvania Avenue earlier in the day, those gathered in line to pay respects at the Capitol that night were from across the country and were eager to talk with those walking in line next to them. Some were there because they loved President Carter and some where there because they wanted to participate in an historic moment. The temperatures were cold on this clear night in the nation's capital. People were dancing and moving to stay warm. But once inside the Capitol and through the security check, the mood again turned solemn. As we moved into the Rotunda, we shared a deep respect for the significance of the moment. There, in the center of this amazing public space, under the Pantheon-like dome, surrounded by murals that mark key moments in American history, laid the body of a man who had served his county and the people of the world for a century. It was impossible to not feel a deep connection to the ideals that serve as the foundation for our democracy. It was humbling to feel part of something so much greater than any one person. Simply put, I felt proud to be an American.

Out of respect, we dared not defile the moment by taking pictures inside the Rotunda, but here are some images seared into my mind's eye: The composed and stoic honor guards surrounding President Carter' flag draped casket; their unwavering focus, reverence, and profound respect etched like stone on their faces. The broad mix of people who came to pay their respects, from those who were dressed in their absolute best for this auspicious occasion, to those wearing jeans and sweatshirts, having come to the Rotunda after their shifts--folks of all ages and ethnic origins made their way around the casket. Carter's flag draped casket sitting on the same catafalque as Lincon's, and behind that on the wall of the Rotunda, the mural of George Washington resigning his commission—an enduring symbol that America would become a Republic, not a monarchy or a military-led nation.

I was so awestruck by the experience in the Rotunda, I went back the next day with Mike, my friend from Bethesda. We stayed to watch the changing of the Honor Guards, saw more people of every walk of life pay their respects, and reflected on life of President Carter and what it means to be an American. I closed my eyes and focused on the sounds in that majestic space: the soft shuffling of feet on carpet, the whirring of press corps' cameras behind me, the sniffles, and the murmured prayers. As we were standing there, dignitaries and family members came to pay their respects through a side hallway, including Senator Chuck Grassley, who is the only sitting Senator who served when Carter was in office, and Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor.

As the day of the State Funeral dawned, I had to get up early, and take the Metro to the Omni Shoreham Hotel. There I would meet Michelle and her dad at 7:00 a.m., go through the security checks, and then be transported to the National Cathedral in motor coach by the 10:00 start time for the State Funeral. The long line at the Omni Shoreham to get through security felt much like a gathering that you find for other funerals—friends reuniting with those they haven't seen in years and people sharing their memories of President Carter.

I had not seen Michelle nor her father in several years, so it was wonderful to reconnect. Given the work that both Michelle and Senator Nunn have done over the years, it was an honor to be their guests and to be introduced to their friends and colleagues. I met another hero of mine--civil rights activist, Congressman, and UN Ambassador Reverend Andrew Young. Michelle introduced me to Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland, and I happened to sit across from her



Caption: Senator Sam Nunn, Ambassador Susan Page, Michelle Nunn, and Wil Cwikiel at the National Cathedral after President Carter's State Funeral

Reverend Andrew Young. Michelle introduced me to Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland, and I happened to sit across from her on the motor coach to the National Cathedral, where we talked about Beaver Island's connection to Arranmore. Sitting next to her on the bus was Juan Manual Santos, President of Columbia, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for bringing his country's civil war to an end. I ran into a friend of mine from college—Ambassador Susan Page—who now serves as a Carter Center Trustee and is teaching law at University of Michigan.

When we arrived in the Cathedral, I was struck by the grandeur of this sacred space. The gothic architecture, with its soaring interior and stunning stained glass windows illuminating those gathered evoked an atmosphere of timeless reverence. Having just met the Reverend Ambassador Young, I was impressed by his heartfelt homily that captured President Carter's commitment to civil rights and fighting racism. Jason Carter, President Carter's grandson shared stories that underscored Carter's humanity, his humility, his sense of humor, his faith, and his love for his wife Rosalynn. Steven Ford delivered President Ford's eulogy for President Carter that he had written before he passed. Ted Mondale, son of Vice President Walter Mondale, gave a tribute that his father had written, one of the memorable lines of which was: "Together we told the truth, we obeyed the law, and we kept the peace." Stuart Eizenstat, former United States Ambassador to the European Union and Chief Domestic Policy Adviser under President Carter provided a list of impressive accomplishments, thus dispelling the myth that President Carter's greatest achievements were after he left office, And, of course, President Joe Biden, whom President Carter had asked to do his eulogy last spring, shared his thoughts about his long-time colleague and friend.

Although these heartfelt eulogies reflecting on President Carter's life and legacy were wonderful, the music was most touching. U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra filled that majestic space. There was not a dry eye in the house when soprano Phyllis Adams finished singing Amazing Grace. And if there was, there surely wasn't when Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood finished their rendition of John Lennon's Imagine.

It was an honor for me to be able to travel to D.C. and take part as our nation both mourned the loss of and celebrated the life of our 39th President. Jimmy Carter was a paragon of integrity and lived a life of service, honesty, humility, and humanity. His legacy stands as a beacon for how each of us can love, lead, and work to make our communities vibrant and the worlbetter place.

2025 A CRITICAL YEAR FOR BROADBAND ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Dick Mulvilhil and Kevin Boyle

After eight years of wishing for true low-latency broadband on Beaver Island, TDS has come through in a big way and delivered 1.5 and 3.0 Mbps / 512 kbps DSL broadband at last. If anyone is interested in broadband this is the best option, we have ever experienced on Beaver Island.

The dream morphed into TDS with decades-long record of poor service repeatedly leaving the Island without voice, 911, and internet service for days at a time.

Federally Subsidized Monopoly

Island Telephone Company, a TDS subsidiary began telephone service on Beaver Island in 1993

USDA/FCC Grant Programs awarded to TDS

- USDA 2009 Broadband Initiatives Program – TDS support 768/200 Kbps
- FCC 2017 Alternative Connect America Model (ACAM) TDS support 10/1 Mbps or 4/1 Mbps through 2026
- FCC 2019 Updated A-CAM I program TDS support 25/3 Mbps through 2028.
- FCC 2023 Enhanced A-CAM support 100/20 Mbps through 2038

Since the inception of Universal Service and USDA/FCC broadband grants for rural unserved areas, telcos have dictated policy decisions and drawn the FCC maps. If one subscriber in a census block received FCC-mandated speeds, the entire census block was considered served.

Data speeds specified in the FCC National Broadband Map show the ISP's maximum advertised speeds rather than the actual speed the subscriber is paying for.

As stated above the USDA and FCC grant data speeds are minimum speed rates rather than the commercially available speeds at the time the grants were enacted. This allows TDS to minimize their capital investment in maintaining and upgrading their DSL network.

On August 13 and 14, 2024 TDS had an extended 911/Internet outage for over 16 hours on both days, an intermediate outage for the rest of the week.

On August 14, 2024, we submitted complaints to The FCC bureaus

- Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
- Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
- Senior Counsel, Wireline Competition Bureau

The FCC's response was they act as a facilitator and will not use their regulatory powers to compel TDs to upgrade its network.

Michigan State 911 committee notification they have no authority to hold telecommunications service providers to service standards.

We're on our own.

Without competition, TDS is not compelled to increase its customer service and invest in its network on Beaver Island.

With the new administration, we have a deregulation tsunami on the horizon.

- Fifth Circuit Court found the Universal Service fund unconstitutional
- ·Sixth Circuit court found net neutrality unconstitutional
- 2025 Sixth Circuit setting aside FCC order reclassifying internet service under Title II.
- The order blocks the FCC from enforcing telecommunications regulations on internet providers
- New administration, congress, and FCC Chair collectively promote deregulation of the telco/ISP sector

What does this mean?

The outcomes of these critical court cases have the potential to reshape the landscape of affordable internet access across the United States. The FCC's authority over the Universal Service Fund has never faced such an extensive challenge, putting programs that connect millions at risk. The net neutrality decision puts the final nail in the coffin for open internet regulation. And that's bad news for consumers.

The Fifth Circuit Court ruled the Universal Service Fund USF unconstitutional. The USF E-rate funds Beaver Island Community School and library and subsidizes TDS 911, lifeline, and Internet service on the Island. TDS is assessed as a fee that is applied to the subscriber's bill for interstate and international telecom, and the base of revenues has been steadily shrinking.

If the USF is ruled unconstitutional, the probability of TDs continuing service on Beaver Island is negligible.

If the USF is ruled constitutional, TDF will receive funding to deliver 120 Mbps service to the island by 2038. Today, EBP, Chattanooga TN owned network is delivering 25 gigs to residential and business subscribers.

This means the FCC will have a limited role in protecting broadband consumers from bad customer service and federally subsidized telco/ISP monopolies.

There will be no regulatory recourse for the continuation of TDS's poor service and extended 911/Internet outages on the island.

Our only solution to secure our digital future is to build a towship-owned FTTH network. The Beaver Island Association applied for the Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity's $50,000 Rural Readiness Grant (RRG).

This grant project is preparing a Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Broadband Development Plan to determine our community's needs to finance and construct a community-owned fiber network throughout Beaver Island. This includes preparing a system design, buildout, and marketing plans by consultants, performing legal services, and project administration.

Our RRG partners are.

- ACD, https://acd.net/ network design and build out plan.
- Merit MoonshotProgram, https://www.merit.edu/community/moonshot/ community outreach marketing plan
- Miller Canfield, https://www.millercanfield.com/ legal and municipal bonds

The BIA and Joint Telecommunication Advisory Committee are crafting a broadband business plan, developing a Broadband Implementation Committee to execute the RRG Broadband Development Plan, and a Broadband Oversight Committee to ensure our ISP partner comply with their contractual obligations to design, build, and manage the township-owned FTTH network.

Our goal is to guarantee our digital future by building a future proof state of the art fiber optic network with first class customer service for the Beaver Island community until the 22nd Century.

WINTER MEMORIES

By Michelle LaFreniere

When all three of my interview choices fell through, I decided to give it up and write about my own memories of winter during my childhood years. First and foremost, winter used to be winter. I don't ever remember one without snow, and lots of it.

My earliest memory of the snowy season involves my dad, a snowmobile, and the cutter he pulled behind with us kids in it. We lived for those days. I remember going as far as Bing and Madonna's place at the end of McCafferty Lane, and down East Side Drive to Al and Helen Dudzik's. (Their house stood where Brad and Pam Grassmick's home is now.) They had a fireplace to warm ourselves, and Helen always had snacks to feed us. We loved that, too. She had a candy dish with various hard candies that Al encouraged us to help ourselves to. Al always had a beverage for Dad. If they had enough beverages in them, Al would play his trumpet to Helen, admonishing him for it.

I remember my parents going to progressive dinners on the snowmobile too. Those were very much looked forward to. I wish I knew how they worked. It would be something different to do in the winter now. I grew up in the house I live in now. My dad built it in 1969 when I was three years old. We lived in a wonderful neighborhood. The Cole's were our nearest year-round neighbors with kids. Their mom was as sweet as they came. Such a gentle soul. I loved visiting their house because the older boys would help us build snow forts. Maybe they were building them for themselves, and we just invaded. I am not sure, but I sure did appreciate it. Mrs. Cole always welcomed us to sit in the TV room and watch hours of cartoons on the coldest days. She had a wingback chair that she sat in next to the window. She, in my memories, always had a newspaper in her lap that she would read, then put down and look out the window some more. I never understood how she kept her house so immaculate with all those kids! A real treat to me was when Laurel Ann was home. Their only daughter. She had the prettiest room I had ever seen. She would let me lay on her bed and watch her at her vanity. I adored her. Another big deal in the Cole house was when Hugh would come home on leave from the Coast Guard. He looked so handsome in his uniform. And Ray! I loved it when he came home from Alaska. At age seven, I decided I was going to marry him someday. Poor Raymond. I must admit that he has the best wife ever now.

A big perk of living in that neighborhood was that Mr. Cole worked for the Road Commission and would pile the snow really high on the side of the turn-around at the Medical Center. To me, it seemed like a mountain. The boys would make us tunnels and slides—the coolest thing ever.

We spent a lot of time sledding down the hill between the old medical center and the Fitzpatrick's. There were a lot of junipers to skirt, but the hill was good. Some days, we would sled down the hill at Father's House. He always let us. The Coles were commercial fishermen at the time, and we would use the waxed cardboard boxes unfolded for sleds. The wax made us go really fast!

When we got older we would sometimes sled down the Hall Corner Hill on runner sleds, laying on our stomachs. It is a damn miracle that we survived childhood.

When it was time to go home, we would take the bread sacks out of our boots, turn the liners upside down on the hearth of our wood stove, and hang our mittens, hats, and scarves over the stove. My mom would make us the best homemade hot cocoa in the world. She made the mix in gallon-sized glass jars. We went through a lot of it. Always a warm slice of homemade bread to go with it. Sometimes she would have homemade peanut butter cookies for us. When she made them, she made a lot!

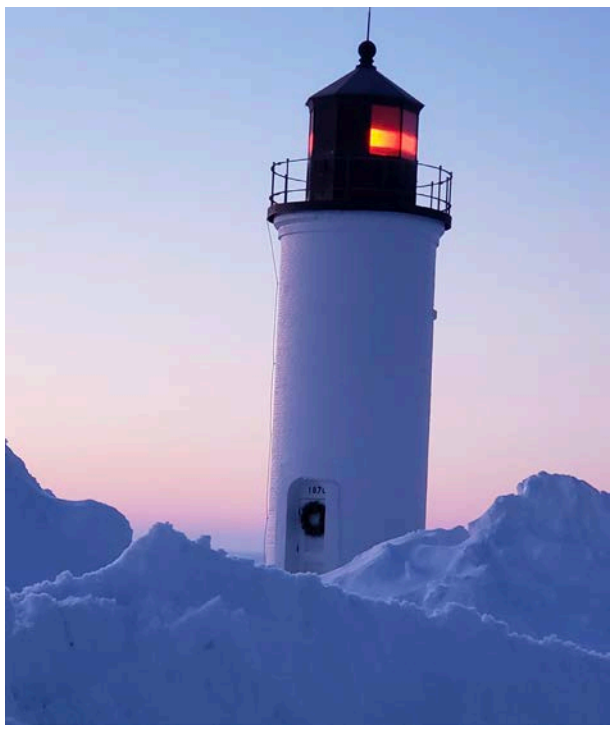
Everyone had a pair of ice skates back then. As soon as the harbor froze enough we were all out there. From the youngest to the oldest. I was never a great skater, but I loved it and went anyway. I could never skate backward. A fact that still bugs me. Haha. There were quite often ice fishing shanties all over the harbor. I don't remember anyone catching any fish. I think they were more for beer drinking and playing cards.
I remember a couple of winters we had snow sculpture contests. One particular winter I was lucky enough to be on Cindy Gillespie's team. She was always so creative. Her talents go far beyond music. I was so proud of the sleeping dragon we made!

In those days, the nuns would let us leave school before holidays to paint the windows of all the businesses in town, all the way down to McDonough's Store. This included Christmas, Valentine's Day, and THE Great Day, St. Patrick's Day.

Oddly enough I have no memories of playing on the playground at school in the winter. I sure had full days though, and never lacked for something to do.

Thanks for letting me share my memories.

One of the people I wanted to interview was Mary Gillespie Palmer. She adamantly refused. I told her she could talk to me or I would talk to others about her! She thinks I am kidding. So, that being said, if you have a funny or sweet story about Mary, please send it to me.. I am hoping to randomly include a story about her.. This is all Mary Palmer's fault!



CALLING OF THE CLANS KICKS OFF FEB 1 AND ENDS ST. PAT'S WEEKEND

By Kitty McNamara

The Calling of the Clans Fundraiser enters its third year as an authentic way to connect the historic Beaver Island families (Clans) to the amazing Emerald Isle Irish Festival and its parent group, the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group. The Emerald Isle Irish Féile is the signature event of the BI Irish Heritage Group whose mission is to recognize, showcase, and preserve Beaver Island's unique Irish Heritage including its connection to Arranmore Island, County Donegal, Ireland. In many ways, the festival showcases the evolution of the ties between the Beaver Island Clans and the Clans of Ireland.

The Calling of the Clans is a fun and slightly competitive way for the Beaver Island diaspora (those who have ever called Beaver Island home or are descendants of those who have) to support the longevity of the festival by supporting the work of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group. The Calling of the Clans in 2024 raised $28,000.00 from 170 donors. Clan donations came from these historic Island families: Boyle, Connaghan, Gallagher, Gillespie, Green/Greene, Martin, McCafferty, McCann, McCauley/Malloy, McDonough, McNamara and O'Donnell.

Not a member of one of the historic clans, but have a strong connection to Beaver Island? You can create your own clan and be a part of the evolution of Irish cultural heritage on Beaver Island; you can even develop your own Clan Crest!

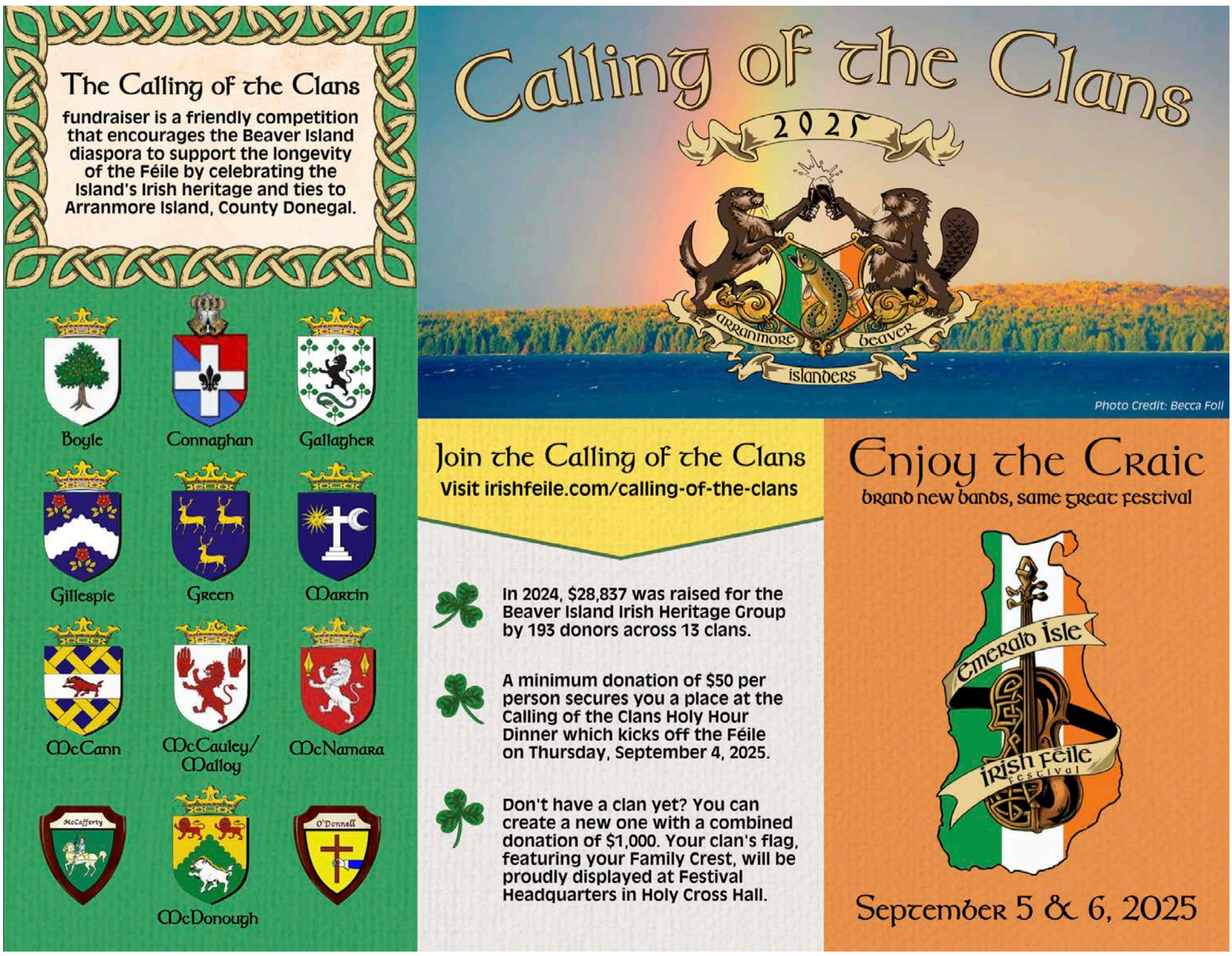
The clan with the most donations by noon on the Saturday, March 15 (almost the Great Day, March 17) 2025, will be able to decorate the festival's Hearth Area with their family photos and heirlooms; the McDonough Clan took honors in 2024 – who will be the winner this year?

All 'Clans' who raise at least $1000.00 will have a flag of their Family Crest on display at the Festival Headquarters – Holy Cross Hall. For our Calling of the Clans supporters, the festival will begin with our Sponsors only, Premium Event, on Thursday September 4th with a "Holy Hour" event hosted by Jerry Early of Arranmore to kick off the féile and thank our Calling of the Clans Supporters for their generosity. This "Holy Hour" special event is an American take on a weekly festive gathering at Early's Pub on Arranmore at which we will thank and recognize those who are supporting the longevity and expansion of the festival and the work of the BI Irish Heritage Group. To secure your spot at the Thursday evening event, contribute at least $50.00 to the clan of your choice and to include a plus-one at the event, contribute at least $100.00.

To become a Calling of the Clans Supporter, please give a gift before March 15, 2025 by visiting our website at www.irishfeile.com/calling-of-the-clans/

Questions? Email: kevingreen777@gmail.com

Support the Craic! SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!


The Calling of the Clans
fundraiser is a friendly competition that encourages the Beaver Island diaspora to support the longevity of the Féile by celebrating the Island's Irish heritage and ties to Arranmore Island, County Donegal.
Boyle
Connaghan
Gallagher
Gillespie
Green
Martin
McCann
McCauley/ Malloy
McNamara
McCafferty
McDonough
O'Donnell
Calling of the Clans
2025
ARRANMORE
BEAVER
ISLANDERS
Photo Credit: Becca Foli
Join the Calling of the Clans
Visit irishfeile.com/calling-of-the-clans
In 2024, $28,837 was raised for the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group by 193 donors across 13 clans.
A minimum donation of $50 per person secures you a place at the Calling of the Clans Holy Hour Dinner which kicks off the Féile on Thursday, September 4, 2025.
Don't have a clan yet? You can create a new one with a combined donation of $1,000. Your clan's flag, featuring your Family Crest, will be proudly displayed at Festival Headquarters in Holy Cross Hall.
Enjoy the Craic
brand new bands, same great festival
Emerald Isle
Irish Féile
festival
September 5 & 6, 2025

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Don't tie them out on a lead, especially at night.
Use non-slip martingale collars or non-slip harnesses.
Take your dogs out on a leash and have a whistle, stick, or other hazing tools with you to scare a predator away.
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LOCAL | FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

THE SEARCH FOR EXTRAORDINARY

By Matthew Swarthout

In 2024, I had the adventure of a lifetime, travelling for five months in 12 countries. I came to realize from this experience that community and sense of place are incredibly important no matter where you live.

I have called Beaver Island "home" my entire life, spending summers growing up at my grandma's cottage on Donegal Bay, and into my adult life spending five summers on the island. I know the island in-depth through working with the Beaver Island Historical Society and the Beaver Island Terrestrial Invasive Species Program. This island and archipelago continues to be my favorite place in the world because of my experiences and memories.

Since graduating Kalamazoo College in 2022, I immediately sought my own path to figure out what I wanted to be and how I wanted my life to go.

In the past three years I have lived and worked in Santa Cruz, CA, Beaver Island, and Traverse City. I have had some jobs within my field of study and some far outside. Aside from my work I have felt purpose when I have travelled. I caught my love for international travel when I lived and studied in Costa Rica on a study abroad program. I made it my mission to explore every area of this beautiful country while staying with a local family. Costa Rica opened my eyes to the potential of travel, beyond Instagrammable moments.

In 2023, I was settled into a small world in Northern Michigan, but I wanted to open up that world. In my experience, travel is the most effective way to tear open your perspective. To learn something new about myself, I felt compelled to travel.

I set off in May 2024 with a one-way ticket to Europe, with the determination to travel for as long as it felt right. The first month was spent with my best friend as we country hopped and took in the massive glaciers of Iceland, the iconic architecture of European cities, and the towering Alps. The second leg of this journey engaged my retrospective eye on how I can use these experiences to better myself. I spent the next three months travelling solo.

I learned to appreciate the slow life in the Scottish highlands and islands while hiking and spending a month in my tent. I learned the importance of tradition as I lived and worked on a mountainside Italian farm. I learned of the passion for community as I surfed with locals in a small village in Morocco. I learned the kindness of strangers as I was welcomed by friends and families I didn't share languages with.

Experiences like these shaped my five months abroad, and they shaped my philosophy on sense of place. I found in all places, people connect to people and to their place. Engaging in the community and acknowledging the extraordinary within the place you live is the most surefire way to find passion for your life.

Being in a foreign location jumpstarts the path of wonder, but seeing the wonder you already have in your every day is just as fulfilling.

Since my return, I have been living in Empire, Michigan along the Sleeping Bear Dunes. I have tried to apply these ideas of slow living, tradition, community and kindness to find the beauty in where I live.

Now more than ever before, I appreciate where I live and I seek out what makes Northern Michigan so unique.

I want to challenge any reader to hike Kuebler's or French Bay trail again to find new beauty and connect to the land. When with friends, be present and relish in the community you have created.

By seeing the extraordinary through travel, I now see the extraordinary within every day.

Soon I will be back where my passion was ignited for travel in Central America. I will be meeting new people seeking connection to shape my perspective. I'm not sure where my life will lead after all these travels and various jobs, but I know I will be better for it. So, get out there and make today worth remembering, in the beauty of your place.

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MEET YOUR AMAZING ISLAND NEIGHBORS WHO EFFORTLESSLY GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

By Amy Marschner

ABOUT ANNA & VIC

The first time they visited Beaver Island was well over 20 years ago on one of Vic's original adventures. He surprised Anna for a few days at Beaver Island after taking her to the fall train ride in Canada. Always wanting to explore something new, he fell in love with the Island before stepping off the ferry.

Neither of them knew anything about the Island, Vic had just found it on a map not realizing that this trip would change their life 20 years later. Vic fell in love with the place as soon as they entered the harbor area, Anna not so much. All he talked about while they were there over the 4th of July was how he would love to live there. The moment he found out there was a music festival he was all in for the next 20 years, he returned with his kids and grandkids year after year minus Anna. To be honest, Anna was not too impressed with the vision he had for moving to the Island.

Their life was pretty full and had been for years with everything that they were involved with. Vic worked for 28 years in Television as a regional Station Manager over 7 stations where he produced TV programs, oversaw staffing, engineering, production, volunteers, and programming. He dealt with over 200 pastors from different back-grounds. He has held a Michigan Builders license for the past 15 years where he has flipped homes and restored two 19th Century historical homes in Zeeland MI. He has been on several boards and was a member of the Rotary in Holland MI.

Anna also worked in Christian Television as The Network Sales Director and Regional Station Manager. She oversaw sales, marketing, staffing, engineering, production, volunteers, and programming. She also hosted and cohosted 3 television shows local and national and has done radio voice overs for radio. She is a talented artist, gifted writer and a talented speaker & motivator.

Together as a team Vic & Anna purchased and restored two historical homes and completely refurbished them to their original grander. They opened the Baert Baron Mansion B&B and operated it for 13 years holding a 5-star rating. In 2019 they purchased 3 acres on the Island, 2 years later they purchased the 2 Coast Guard Cottages on Indian Point and are bringing back the uniqueness of them sitting on the bluff. 4 ½ years ago they sold their B&B, Vic retired from television, and they purchased the Emerald Island Inn and completely remodeled it. Vic is on 5 Beaver Island Boards and Anna has her hands full with all aspects of running the Emerald Island Inn, her online presence and the Ladies of the Island Gathering.

THE GATHERINGS ON THE ISLAND

Both Vic and Anna have always been passionate about serving others who pass by them on the voyage we call life. To them they are always aware as they cross paths with others to pay attention to the needs of others and really listen to what they have to say.

Over 25 years Anna has used her natural gifts to pull women together as one, helping them see life's journey more clearly for themselves and others. She has witnessed the horrors of human trafficking, understand she found that women need to express themselves and be heard. They also want to learn from each other as they understand what others have carried in their life's journey. What she has done through the years is create a safe place for conversations, protection, friendships, and compassion for women who pass through battles and overcome on the other side. Three years ago, she started a Ladies Gathering on the Island when Tammy Radionoff was generous enough to open her home up for an evening with a few ladies for dinner after listening to her passion for women. There were laughs, tears, stories, and encouragement that flowed through the months they were there.

She has opened her homes, gathering ladies around a table or living room, fixed an amazing luncheon and just allowed ladies to talk to one another about their life experiences. In the mist of these Gatherings

The next year Vicki Smith offered to host the gathering in her amazing home that was big enough for them to grow and grow they did. The heart-felt stories that were told of overcoming, the laughter, the amazing food, the tears, the fun games, and the encouraging words of hope concerning life was like.

Anna finally approached Lori at the Museum about using the Museum for the Gathering because the ladies had outgrown Vicki's home. Anna's passion is still the same as it was 25 years ago for women. As she stated openly, all of us have fallen from grace, dusted ourselves off, and stood up when someone reached out to help us. Her purpose is to listen, to encourage, to hold broken souls, to be a cheerleader, speak life into others and pray for the "Daughter of God" to be restored.

Vic sees things like men think, invite them over after work, have Anna put together a great meal, gather them around a table, the couch, or the floor if need be and eat. As Vic tells it, men just need fellowship where they can just come as they are and just be themselves for a few moments.

Most of the men that come to "Vic's Guy Time" were not raised on the Island and have just been here a few years. They haven't found their tribe yet and one of the men in the group invites or brings them, it's a great way for them to meet a lot of men at one time in a friendly surroundings.

Vic's Guy Time usually goes like this. Have appetizers while waiting for all the Guys to get there, eat dinner and have some fellowship. Then the group of guys talks about what they have been doing the past 30 days. Maybe have dessert and listen to a historical story told of the Island. If someone needs help doing something they have the freedom to ask. Periodically someone may have a thought to share. And from time-to-time Vic will have a speaker come in and speak of what they do to help change lives for others. And from time to time there will be a very deep conversation about overcoming a deep valley someone may be walking through.

Vic's Guy Time is about standing shoulder to shoulder with other men who love their family and have worked hard to create a home for them, Men who want to fulfill their dreams and walk into their destiny. Men who want to gather with likeminded men who want to walk away from life for a couple of hours and the pressures it brings. They just want to step away for a second to forget about tomorrow because it will still be there. They love to just relax and have some me time for a few moments. They need to take a few seconds to laugh about life and let go of the pressure they're under. When men listen to another man's journey in a safe place who has walked in their shoes, those men can help you understand you can reach your destiny, and you are not alone.

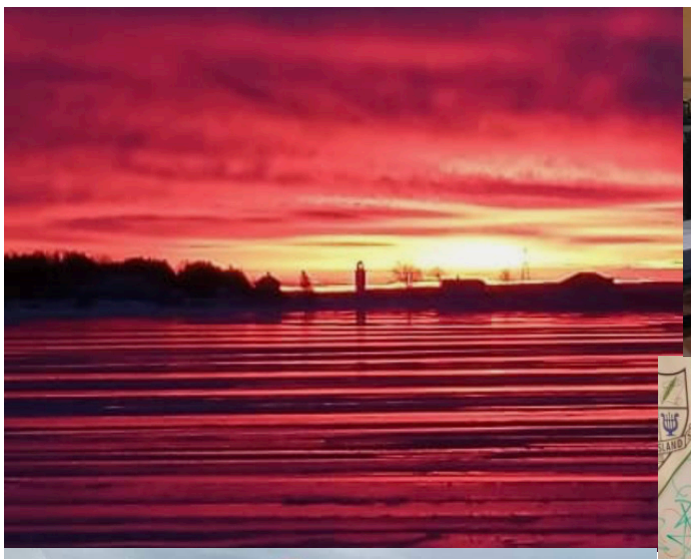


PHOTO CREDITS: BICC, George Broder, Beaver Islamd This or That, Anna Van Deventer, Beaver Island Community School, Amy Marschner, Paul Cole, Angel Welke, Amy McKinney Wieland, Cheryl Oliver Kern, John Doskoch

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 **12:00 pm** St. Brigid's Day & Imbolc **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:00 pm Movie-** The Fall Guy
2 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	3 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **5:00 pm** Qigong Practice	4 **9:00 am** Peaine Township Planning Commission **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **11:30 am** Senior Tai Chi **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **5:30 pm** Improv Club Workshop **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	5 **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art **5:30 pm** Committee of the Whole Meeting **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	6 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **11:00 am** Chair Yoga **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	7 **9 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	8 **8:00 am** BIBCO 2025 Reservations Begin **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **3:00 pm Movie-** Hitsville: The Making of Motown **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
9 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15 **1:00 pm** Elks Lodge Superbowl Party **4:00 pm** Chili Cook-off & Superbowl party @ Wild Strawberry Cafe	10 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **5:00 pm** Qigong Practice **6:30 pm** School Board Meeting	11 **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **11:30 am** Senior Tai Chi **12:00 pm** Beaver Island Transportation Board Meeting **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **5:30 pm** Peaine Township Board Meeting **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:00 pm** Let's Get Quizzical- Trivia	12 **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	13 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **11:00 am** Chair Yoga **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	14 **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	15 **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:00 pm** Six Triple Eight
16 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass **4:00 pm** Cancer Support Group	17 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **5:00 pm** Qigong Practice	18 **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **11:30 am** Senior Tai Chi **1:30 pm** Beaver Island Waste Management Committee **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **4:00 pm** BIA Board Meeting **5:30 pm** Improv Club Workshop **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	19 **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	20 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **11:00 am** Chair Yoga **2:00 pm** BIESA Meeting- Special Meeting **4:30 pm** BIDL Board Meeting **4:30 pm** BI Telecommunications Advisory Committee Meeting **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	21 **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	22 **7:00 am** Lake Geneserath Ice Fishing Tournament **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
23 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass	24 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **5:00 pm** Qigong Practice	25 **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **11:30 am** Senior Tai Chi **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:00 pm** Let's Get Quizzical Trivia	26 **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	27 **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **11:00 am** Chair Yoga **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC **7:00 pm** Medical First Responder Class	28 **9:00 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **5:30 pm** BICS Sports Booster Crockpot Cook-off	

funfacts

For the most up-to-date island events please visit the BIC Calendar. We send our paper to print and dates are subject to change after.

https://biccenter.org/calendar/

BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE NEWS

By Jacque LaFreniere

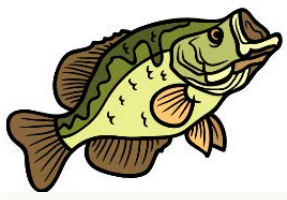
Dock projects: the BIWC continues to work on an ADA compliant dock at Lake Genesereth. We received a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for $6000 and individual donations totaling another $6000.

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT: The ice and weather permitting, our annual LAKE G Ice Fishing Tournament will be held the weekend of Feb. 22. Kids and adults will have the opportunity to win prizes in a variety of categories. Watch locally for more details.

TREES and SHRUBS for wildlife: The club plans on distributing trees again this year, probably focusing on Fruits rather than nuts. Apples, pears and more will be purchased and available in late April. While we provide these trees free of charge, we encourage to donate and/or become a member of the wildlife club so we can continue with the program in the future.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Members: New: Tim Warmerdam and Ben Mach
Board Officers: Levi Connor- president, Bruce Beaudoin - VP, Mark LaFreniere- Treasurer, Jacque LaFreniere- Secretary.



BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB

Feb. 22, 2025
Lake Geneserath
Ice Fishing
Tournament

Dawn to Dusk

Adults- Biggest pike and panfish by weight

Kids- biggest Pike and Panfish by weight

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes

Smallest Pike by weight

KIDS FREE

Adults $10 registration at Lake G. on the day, or early at the Hardware

T-Shirts given to adults and kids.

Food will be available also- hot dogs, soup etc....

FUN AND GAMES!

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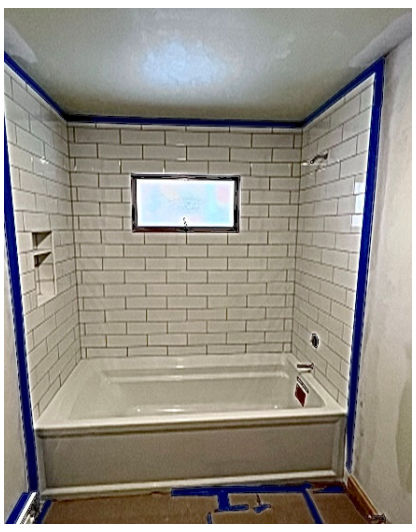

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TUNES WRAPS UP 1ST YEAR WITH "DINNER & A MURDER"

By Tara Palmer-Pop

What a way to wrap up our first year! Our "Dinner and A Murder" at the Four Corners Speakeasy was SO FUN! Great costumes, lots of laughs and a few murders!

We have many to thank for this successful night, starting with Bud & Colleen Martin for hosting the event at the Circle M. They gave us free reign of the building and were so helpful with anything we needed. They have been continuous supporters of our program in various ways and we feel very lucky that they understand the importance of giving Beaver Island kids the opportunity to become musicians!

Thank you to Josh Runberg for preparing the dinner and to Laura Green, Brontae, Briana Maudrie, Charlie Hahn and Chuck Pop for volunteering their time to serve our guests!

To our Tunes students and parents, as well as friends, that were all hands on deck before, during and after our event - thank you.

Thank you to Donna Stambaugh for graciously opening Island Treasures for our guests to costume up. So many creative costumes came just from shopping the resale.

Thank you for Rob Cole for capturing our event.

To our band members, Jeremy Sowa, Paul Lamb, Hilary Palmer and Layla Hall, thank you for a great night of music and dancing.

And finally, we thank all the super sleuths who came out supported our program.

We are happy to report that, because of funds raised last night, we are able to add a second monthly fiddle class for BICS K-6 grade students with Ruby John - which start this month!

We hope 2025 is everything you hope it to be. Stay TUNE'd for all the great musical things to come!

With love from Team TUNES

GREAT NEWS! We won a grant award from the Wildflower Association of Michigan to work on the Native Plant Garden in front of the Library!

February Garden Chores
Give your tools a good clean and sharpening.

Watch for and brush off snow and ice from tender trees and shrub limbs to prevent breakage.
It's a good time to clean/dust off indoor plants using water and a rag to promote growth.
Browse the Seed Library and/or order seeds. Check your stash of seeds for viability before you order. (see chart)
Start winter sowing, it's not too late!
Collect your seed starting equipment so you're ready to go.
Start planning your garden!

GUTSY WOMEN - RUTH ANN BEDFORD

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

The Beaver Island Historical Society has proudly featured our Gutsy Women Exhibition in the Print Shop Museum since 2020. The women featured are extraordinary Matriarchs in our community. The exhibit posters tell the stories of women who transformed the Island, raised families and stretched themselves beyond what was expected.

For over 60 years the Society has been preserving and sharing the Island's history and Women have often been an invisible participant in that history. The Women we honor performed dangerous social activism. They spoke out risking ridicule, banishment or worse. Some excelled at doing what was previously 'mens work' and opened avenues for women who followed them. Others filled the role of what was expected of them in their era, but did so with extraordinary courage or grace!

If you would like to learn more about supporting our Gutsy Women exhibit or wish to nominate a woman for the 2025 exhibit please contact Lori Taylor-Blitz at the Print Shop Museum.

Ruth Ann Bedford

The Woman Who Refused to Wear Bloomers

Ruth Ann was born in New York on November 30, 1834 to Walter Miller and Elizabeth Bouton. She married Thomas Bedford and raised two children, Edwin and Julia. They were Mormons and eventually moved to Beaver Island where James Strang declared himself King and led a large Mormon population from 1848-1856.

With each passing year, Strang instituted a succession of restricting laws and regulations. In 1855 Strang ruled that women should wear pantaloons (also called bloomers) under their skirts so as to be more modest. Devout Mormons and keenly aware of social injustice, the Bedfords believed Strang was wrong. Ruth Ann refused to wear bloomers and led other women to rebel against this injustice.

Thomas Bedford was punished by Strang for his wife's activism. He was whipped in the public square which resulted in his determination to end the 'King's' reign. Ruth Ann's courage in rebelling against Strang helped lead her husband and other men to shoot James Strang in 1856. Strang fled to Wisconsin where he died three weeks later.

Thomas eventually abandoned his family and left Beaver Island. Ruth Ann lived on the Island until 1884 when she moved to Charlevoix. She died there in 1911 just days before her 77th birthday.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library

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BEAVER ISLAND'S NELLIE JOHNSON SCHOONER AND THE GREAT LAKES PIRATE

By Michael S. Frank

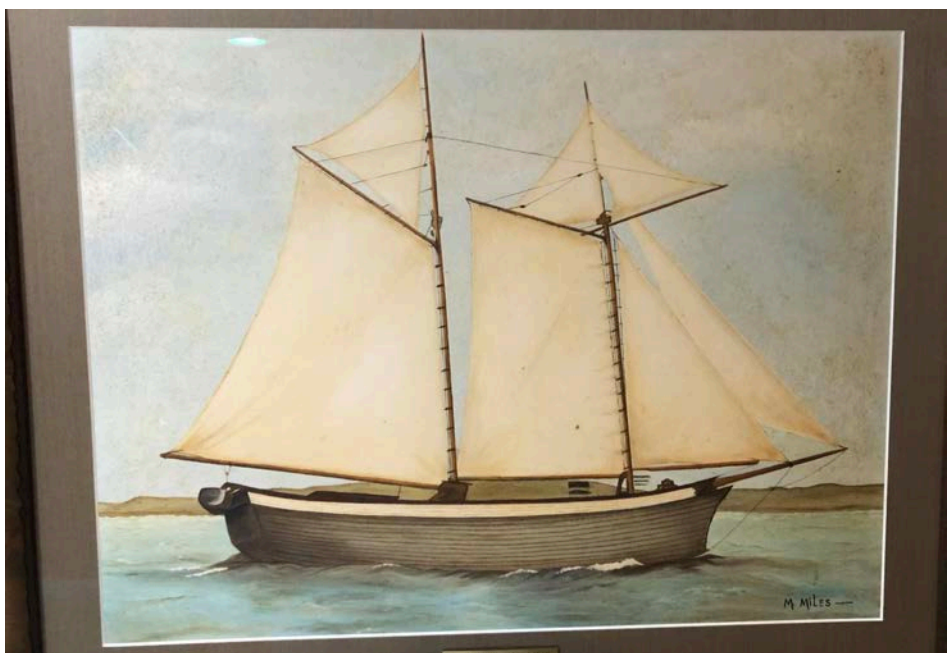
While growing up, I remember a painting of the Nellie Johnson schooner in my maternal grandparents' house. My great-grandmother, Mary Johnson (1886-1969), worked on this vessel when she was a young woman. Her duties included cooking for a hungry crew and mending the fishnets. The 50-ft schooner was owned by Mary's father, Captain John Johnson (1851-1903). A portrait of Captain Johnson is on the second floor of the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum.

Not much else was said about the painting after I inherited it from my mother. Several years later while browsing in a bookstore I noticed a book titled "The Scourge of Captain Seavey, the Great Lakes Pirate" written by Karl Manke from Owosso, Michigan. While glancing through the book's pages, I was surprised to see the name of a schooner called the Nellie Johnson. No one in my mother's family ever knew or mentioned the following story that took place in the early 1900s.

On the evening of June 11, 1908, two seamen of the Great Lakes, Captain John McCormick and Captain Dan Seavey, met on-board the Nellie Johnson in the small-town harbor of Grand Haven, Michigan.

McCormick was the schooner Captain of the Nellie Johnson, a 50-ft vessel that was originally owned by Captain John Johnson from Beaver Island, Michigan. Seavey, known as Roaring Dan Seavey", was a big man who was known as a fierce drinker and barroom brawler. Both men knew each other from years past.

In the maritime folklore of the Great Lakes, Seavey was the only person who was ever branded as a pirate. Seavey had an infamous reputation for stealing and capturing vessels on the Great Lakes. His 42-foot, two-masted schooner - The Wanderer, raided the docks of small towns along Lake Michigan and was notorious for wrecking ships by altering significant amount of Seavey's profit also came from venison poaching.



sea lights; either by existing lights or placing false lights. This trick known as "moon cussing", caused ships to sail into rocks, where Seavey and his crew could easily remove cargo from the damaged vessel. A significant amount of Seavey's profit also came from venison poaching.

On that evening over a century ago, Seavey's ship docked near the port of Grand Haven. While in town, Seavey spotted Nellie Johnson in the town's harbor. He could tell the vessel was weighed down with a precious cargo of cedar logs waiting to be sold in Chicago. Seavey brought aboard jugs of whiskey that he offered to share with the McCormick and his crew. According to some reports, there may have been an old score to settle. According to others, and Seavey himself, speaking with authorities some weeks later – he said he was a mere sailor on McCormick's ship. Once the crew and Captain McCormick became intoxicated, Seavey hijacked the Nellie Johnson and left behind a drunk Captain and crew. He then sailed to Chicago to sell the cedar logs on the black market. Reaching Chicago, Seavey ran into trouble – he couldn't sell the timber, and he was at the far end of Lake Michigan with a boat that wasn't his. As news traveled around the Great Lakes, the United States Revenue Cutter Service soon gave chase. In the meantime, Seavey moored the Nellie Johnson and was again sailing the Wanderer. After several days he was captured on June 29, 1908, and taken to Chicago for trial.

Newspapers reported that Seavey was arrested on the charge of piracy. However, he was charged with "unauthorized removal of a vessel on which he had once been a seaman". Seavey was released on bond and the charges were later dropped when the owner of the Nellie Johnson failed to appear.

At the end of his career, Seavey accepted a position with the United States Marshals Service, where he worked to curb poaching, smuggling and piracy on Lake Michigan.

Seavey retired in the late 1920s and settled in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. He was known to be a religious man and was often seen carrying a bible—a stark contrast to his earlier life and the legends of the "Great Lakes Pirate".

For the rest of his life, Seavey maintained that he won the Nellie Johnson in a poker game. He died a poor man in a nursing home on 14 February 1949, at the age of 83. He is buried next to his daughter in Forest Home Cemetery, Marinette, Wisconsin.

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GOVERNMENT DEREGULATION STIMULATES SMALL TOWN INDEPENDENCE & SELF RELIANCE

By Bill Reed

A widely recognized standard for communications technology reliability is called the “five nines” - meaning 99.999% of the time it will connect. When you need to call 911 it’s critical the system is working. Performance against such standards was continuously monitored by state and federal regulators and firms that failed to perform were compelled to find and fix problems. Measured against the “five-nines” standard, Beaver Islanders experienced several centuries worth of telephone service downtime in August 2024. There was no sanction.

The 20th century regulatory regimes that granted franchises, controlled prices and set quality standards for telephone networks were all but abandoned by the twenty-first. In 2011, the Michigan legislature put the final nail in the coffin of pervasive state regulation of service quality protections, leaving a toothless complaint process in its stead.

In telecommunications in particular, the case for deregulation was strong. The rapid development of new technologies, unfettered by regulation, saw the pervasive expansion of cable TV and internet services, cellular telephone and data services and satellite-based TV and internet services. These services compete with one another as well as the traditional telecommunications carriers. Market theory holds that this competition would hold down prices while preserving quality.

The theory works up to a point. Advocates of de-regulation tended to overlook the fact that not all markets are created equal. The economics of wiring an urban area are vastly more attractive than for rural areas. So residents of Detroit or Chicago were able to choose among competing cable TV providers and the phone company for internet service while those who lived on a certain island in Lake Michigan couldchoose among none.

According to the Institute for Local Self Reliance some 270 communities across the United States have responded to the downside impacts of telecommunications deregulation by building and operating their own municipal broadband networks. Several of these are in Michigan including, most prominently, Traverse City and Holland. Among the smaller Michigan communities to take matters into their own hands is Lyndon Township, a rural community of 2700 situated in the rolling hills 20 miles northwest of Ann Arbor.

Lyndon Township’s larger size and proximity to urban America was not sufficient to overcome the brutal economics of the rural-urban broadband divide. The cable TV companies never reached Lyndon Township with their high bandwidth networks. Terrain and extensive tree cover limited access to the cell service and satellite alternatives. The majority of residents were stuck with an antiquated copper network operated by Frontier Communications. Frontier’s best DSL-based internet service offer was six megabits/second, barely enough to deliver a single streaming Netflix movie.

Today, Lyndon Township residents are able to choose among monthly-plans offering broadband speeds from a low of 100megabits/second to up to 1 gigabit/second. The low end of this range is four times the best DSL speed offered by TDS on Beaver Island. Every home and business in the township has access to this level of service.

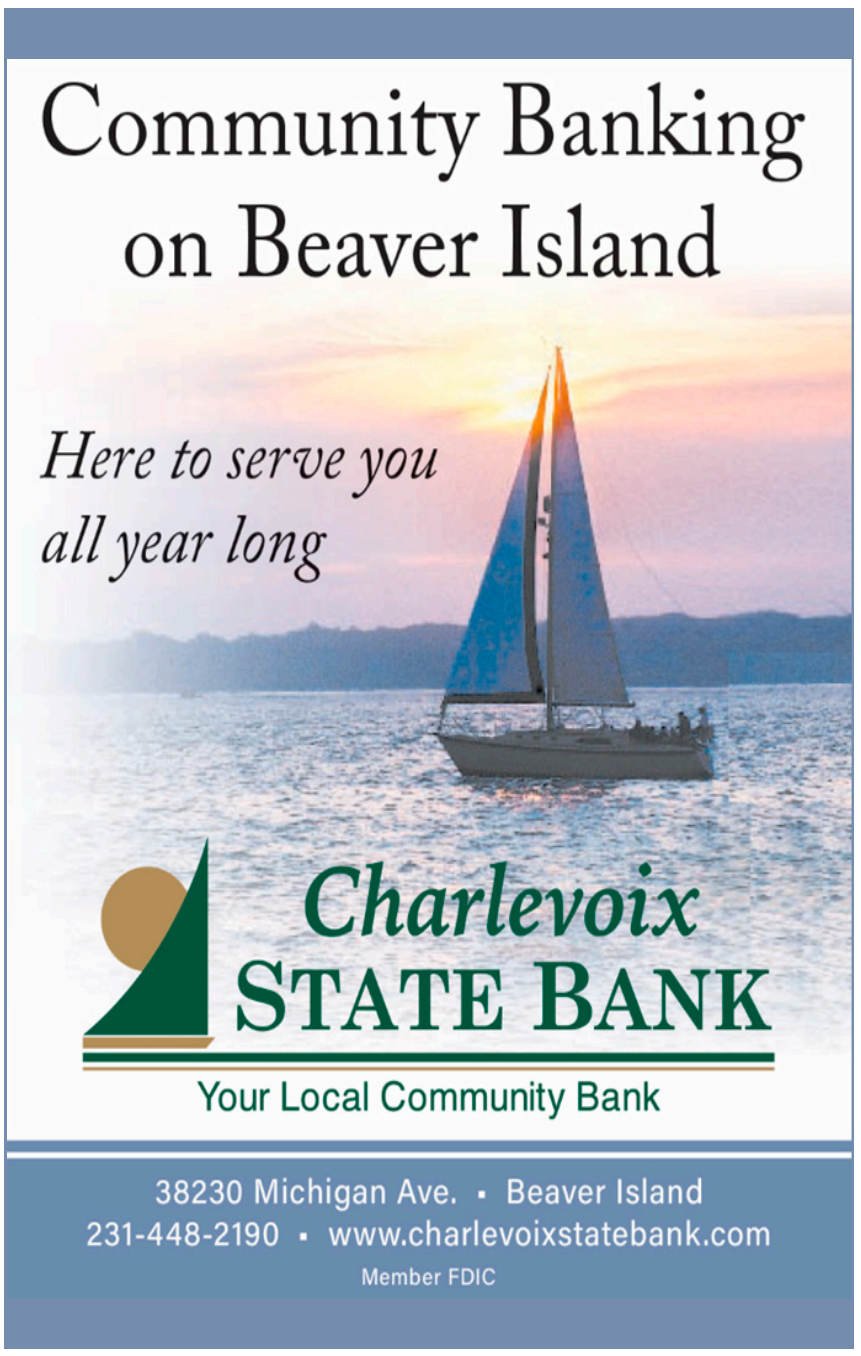
This is because in 2017 Lyndon Township residents realized that no white knight was coming to rescue their foundering network and voted to take control of their own telecom future.

Following more than a year of preliminary work including a feasibility study, a series of townhall meetings and resident surveys, Lyndon Township voted to build and own a municipal fiber optic network. The bonding authority and associated 20-year millage was approved in a township ballot by 67% of voters. Thus began a two-year process that included hiring design and construction management contactors and continuous monitoring and community progress reporting by the Broadband Implementation Committee – a group of residents charged by their neighbors to oversee the construction process. Two years later 68 miles of fiber optic cable had been laid along township roads and another 68 miles up driveways and lanes to reach the 1140 dwellings in the township.

By 2020, as the worst effects of the Covid pandemic took hold, little internet service that met the needs of the most demanding remote education and work-at-home applications. Now, four years after the build-out was completed, 91% of Lyndon Township residents subscribe to the network they own. Thus far, daily usage has peaked at 40% of the 10 gigabit capacity of the network. In five years of operation the network has experienced only one significant outage -- affecting only a portion of the network for several hours. The issue was resolved and future incidents will be prevented by redundant links that were implemented in response.

Lyndon Township’s Broadband Oversight Committee has succeeded the Implementation Committee. Last year the Oversight Committee replaced their incumbent operating contractor. The cost of a fee increase required by the contractor would have precluded investment in technical upgrades needed to maintain quality and offer enhanced services. The committee rejected that outcome and is now working with a new network operating contractor, Advanced Communications & Data (ACD). Together they are defining the metrics and reporting requirements for their quality-of- service obligations. The “five-nines” standard is just one in an array of detailed technical performance criteria to be applied. They are also developing customer-responsiveness quality standards that ACD must meet to comply with its obligations to Township residents. The Oversight Committee meets monthly to review financial and technical performance data and is developing periodic reports for distribution to the community.

The Broadband Oversight Committee functions as a citizen board of directors managing their community’s network asset. Gary Munce, Deputy Supervisor and member of the Oversight Committee, believes the township has reached a “mature phase” in its management. He should know. He was one of the individuals who started the broadband initiative in 2014. The mature phase Gary describes involves active oversight of the network operating contractor; comprehensive quality of service monitoring; and financial controls to sustain the network and ensure its future development in the best interests of the community. It is a committee of neighbors, managing an essential community asset and answerable to their neighbor-customers if something goes wrong. Sounds like a plan.



SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE MUSIC

By Matt Thomas

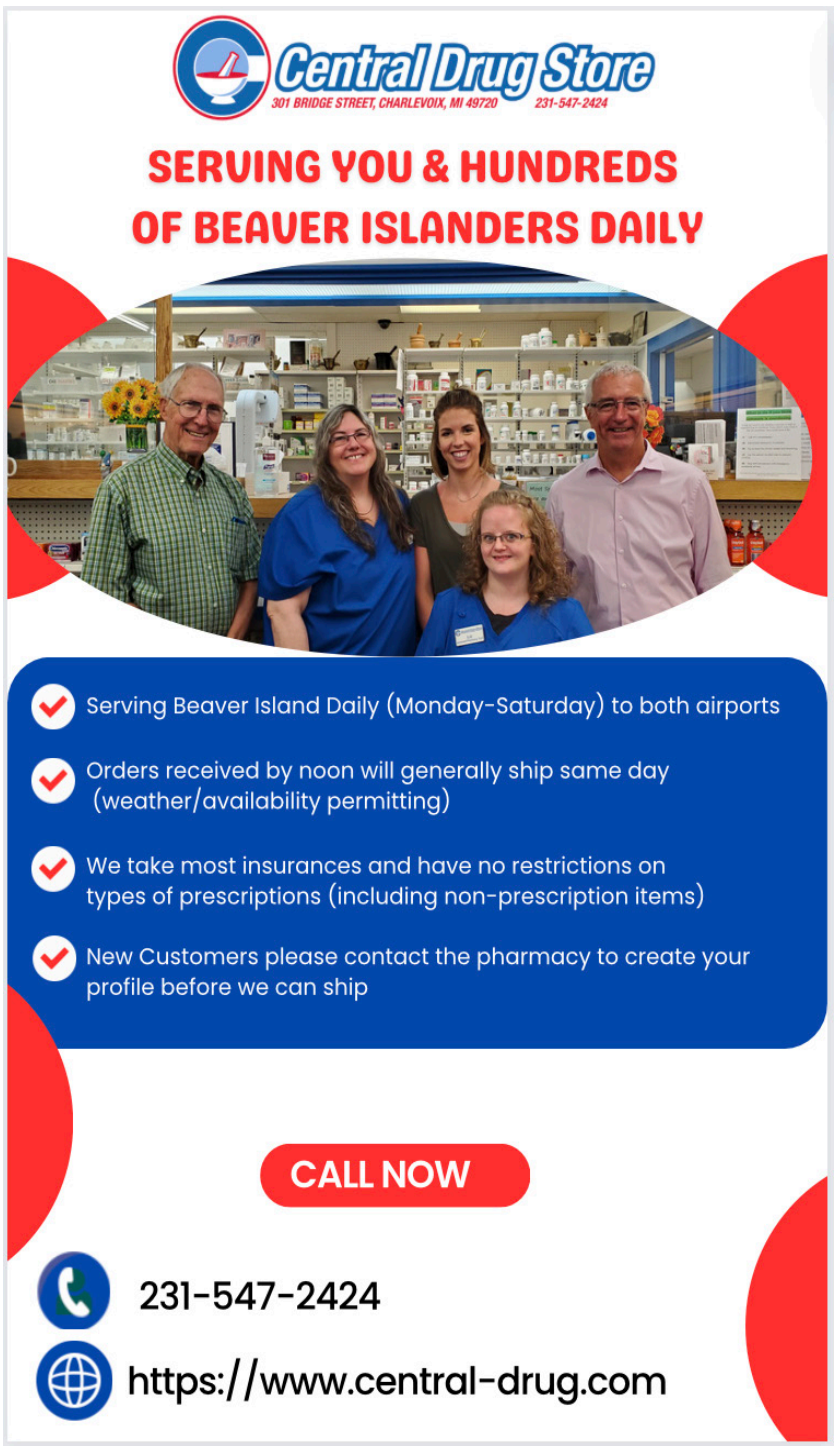
Planning a festival like Baroque on Beaver is no small task. The work requires attention to details across a range of areas, including travel arrangements for artists and staff, operational logistics, housing and food, marketing and communications, ticket sales, venues, audio engineering, and more.

And of course, there's the "small" matter of determining the music to be played. What we see as a finished product onstage takes an extraordinary amount of forethought and planning prior to showtime. Enter the Music Director, in our case Maestro Robert Nordling. It is his job to select our repertoire (the musical features that are performed) based on a plan for the week that makes artistic and musical sense. The program reflects diverse time periods and genres or styles and it utilizes the musicians in an equitable way. And most important, the program appeals to the audience.

Maestro Nordling spends hundreds of hours in preparation before the first event reaches your ears. In addition to his own preparation of each musical score, he creates a plan to help the players execute each piece to perfection. If you add to this consideration a rehearsal schedule that can't overlap people, times, or places, and allows only six days to prepare all the concerts of our festival week, you get a sense of the tasks at hand.

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

If you are at all curious about how, despite all of the above required decisions and tasks, our Festival comes together, plan to attend Robert's annual opening lecture that kicks of Baroque Week events. His presentations are always full of stories, insights, and information about what goes on behind the scenes of a fully professional music festival. Please plan to join us for a relaxed evening of dessert, drinks, and discussion on Thursday July 24, 7:30 at the Beaver Island Historical Society and find out why someone needs to be in charge of the music.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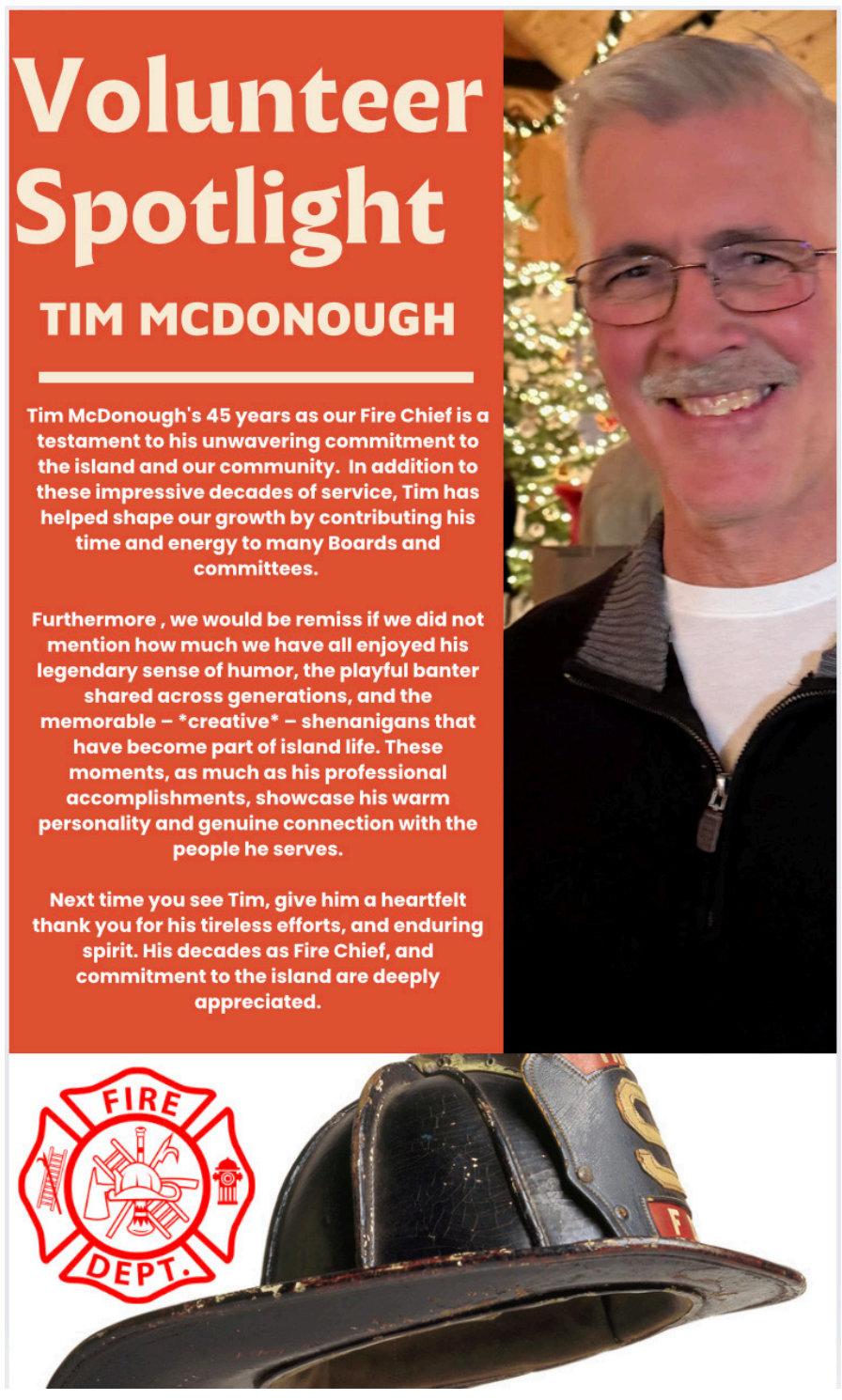
Volunteer Spotlight
TIM MCDONOUGH
Tim McDonough's 45 years as our Fire Chief is a testament to his unwavering commitment to the island and our community. In addition to these impressive decades of service, Tim has helped shape our growth by contributing his time and energy to many Boards and committees.
Furthermore , we would be remiss if we did not mention how much we have all enjoyed his legendary sense of humor, the playful banter shared across generations, and the memorable – *creative* – shenanigans that have become part of island life. These moments, as much as his professional accomplishments, showcase his warm personality and genuine connection with the people he serves.
Next time you see Tim, give him a heartfelt thank you for his tireless efforts, and enduring spirit. His decades as Fire Chief, and commitment to the island are deeply appreciated.
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- Judging at 6:00 PM
- Kick-off at 6:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!
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- Drinks are not included in the cover fee, but will be available for purchase.
- We'll have games and drink specials throughout the evening
- Please let us know if you'll be joining us so we can make sure we have seating for everyone!

TO COMPETE IN THE COOK-OFF:
- Let us know the name of your (potentially award-winning) chili.
-Competitors are encouraged to prepare enough chili for approximately 30 two-ounce samples (although more is always welcome).
-Please bring your own crockpot and we will provide table space.

PRIZES:
- Bragging Rights (of course)
- There will be a Cash Prize for 1st Place, as well as a Trophy made by St. James Pottery, which will be displayed in Wild Strawberry Cafe for all to see
- And more!

ELKS RECEIVES SPOTLIGHT GRANT- BUYS NEW COATS FOR BEAVER ISLAND STUDENTS

By Megan Tuohy

ELKS LODGE #2886

With thank-you's to all Beaver Island Elks for contributing to the ENF Fund, all students at Beaver Island Community School were provided with some timely new gear.

Preschool through sixth grade students each received a new winter coat. Seventh through twelfth grade students each received a winter-wear set of hat, neckwarmer, gloves and thick socks.

Elks love being of service to the community. We hope that each piece of gear is enjoyed!

If your student does not need their item, please pass along to a friend in need / donate, someone else can use.

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REMEMBERING ED TROUTMAN

By Frank D'Andraia

The Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center announces with profound sadness that Edward Lee Troutman, a former Health Center Treasurer and valued member of the Health Center's Board of Directors, passed away on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague Ed Troutman, and we extend our deepest condolences to the Troutman family," said Frank D'Andraia, President of the Board of Directors. "Ed's steady presence and thoughtful guidance during his tenure on our board were invaluable. We are grateful for his dedicated service and contribution to the Health Center's mission. Ed will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him."

Ed Troutman had extensive leadership and management experience, having served for more than 30 years in various executive leadership positions within the insurance industry. Prior to his retirement Ed was Senior Vice President of the Foremost Insurance Company of Grand Rapids, a subsidiary of the Farmers Insurance.

Upon his retirement from Foremost Ed embarked on an extensive commitment of community engagement, including board service as Treasurer of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance (Baroque on Beaver) and the Beaver Island Transportation Authority, as well as a board member of The Preservation Association of Beaver Island (BIC Center). He served as Chair of the St. James Board of Review and the St. James Planning Commission. In addition, he chaired the joint townships Waste Management Committee. He was active in the Beaver Island Community School's mentoring program and in the activities of the Beaver Island Christian Church.

Ed and his wife Linda were members of the Health Center's Legacy Tree and 1953 Societies. The Troutman's were longtime residents of St. James Township until they departed the island in 2021 in order to live closer to their children. Ed passed away at his home Noblesville, Indiana, a suburb of indianapolis. Ed Troutman was 81.

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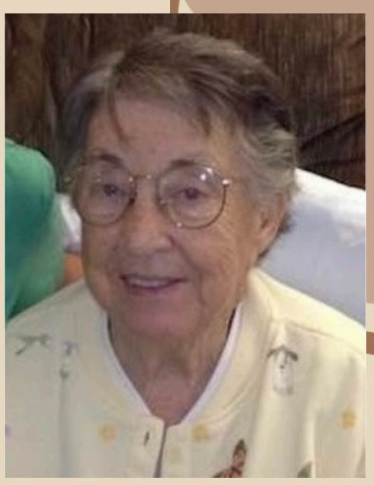
Tried and True Favorite Family Recipes
By Rach Becker

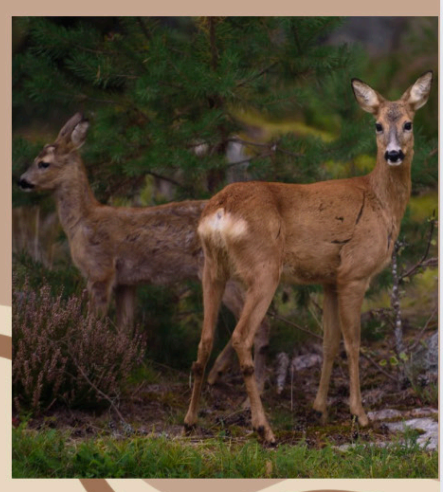
EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT ARE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY.

Rose was born to Anthony and Mary (Boyle) Green(e) on the Green(e) Farm on Beaver Island. She married Jack Connaghan, and they raised their kids, Eddie, Tony, Steve "Gus" and Gerald here.

The “e” at the end of Green was used off and on over the generations. Specifically for Russell, Rose's brother, the “e” was dropped when he entered the army during the Korean War.

Because Beaver Island has some of the best-uninhibited land, hunters are drawn to it. This month, we'll feature a recipe that could be useful to hunters now, or in the future.





Rose Callaghan

Some of you have the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary cookbook, "OUT OF THE FIRE INTO THE FRYING PAN." A lot of folks have a stock of venison and may be looking for something to do with it. Look no further!

VENISON SALAMI

20 pounds of ground venison
2/3 cup tender salt
1/3 cup black pepper
1/3 cup garlic salt
1/3 cup mustard seed
4 teaspoons red pepper
4 teaspoons pork seasoning

Mix all seasonings, and add to venison. Refrigerate. Mix or knead three more mornings. On the fourth day, shape into rolls. Put on a rack so grease drains off as it cooks. Bake for eight hours at 175 °.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

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I AM SAM - A HISTORY OF THE DUNLEVY FAMILY

Written By John F. Cull

The Dunlevy family is very proud to be part of this book series being published by the Beaver Island Historical Society.

Francis "Sam" Dunlevy was a proud man. A very proud adopted American and he loved history. He would be so proud of all of us "Sam's" and the history we have all made.

The sharing of our family history, Beaver Island history, Arranmore history, Irish history, American history, it is all so very important to pass on. Your history is our history.

In this day and age with computers and databases, it's not hard to trace your roots but what really counts are the stories that are told while sitting around the kitchen table being told from generation to generation.

In this brief part one of this book I will introduce the Dunlevy family to Beaver Island history. Our focus in part two is the descendants of Francis "Sam" Dunlevy.

The name Dunlevy is not really well known on Beaver Island today as all the sons and grandsons would become sailors and most would move away to Chicago. All of John's children would move to the greater Chicago area. Sam's oldest four daughters all got married (Mary "Og" O'Donnell ~ Hannah Left ~ Nellie McCafferty ~ Anne McCann) and all stayed on Beaver Island and raised large families while all of his sons would go sailing and move away. Thus the last name of Dunlevy did not carry on on Beaver Island, it did in Chicago.

If we look back, it was the same on Arranmore Island. There was only one Dunlevy family on Arranmore. James and Mary Dunlevy only had one son Daniel, who took the name to be Beaver Island, so the name did not carry on there either.

This amplifies my reasoning for writing about this Dunlevy family.

I am one of seven generations of this Dunlevy family, and it is one of the great pleasures of my life to be able to share a little bit of this history with you. Never will all the history be known perfectly, but that's why this book and all volumes of Beaver Island Family Histories are so important.

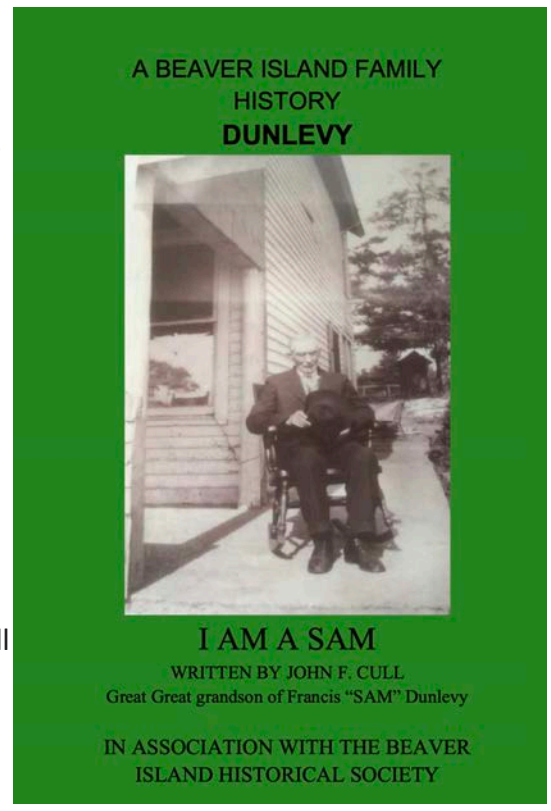
I dedicate this book to my mother Claire Cull who taught us all the importance of family.

"We are the heirs to their strength and courage. We are here because of what they endured to give us our heritage. We've got a lot to be thankful for."

John F. Cull

"If you don't recount your family history, it will be lost. Honor your own stories and tell them too. The tales may not seem very important, but they are what binds families and makes each of us who we are."

Madeleine L'Engle



BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR $24.95

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BEAVER ISLAND RESIDENTS SIGN UP FOR U-M WAVE ENERGY PANEL

By Derek Smith

The afternoon sun glimmered off the clear blue waters of Lake Michigan as the Emerald Isle glided across its smooth, mirror-like surface on Nov. 15, 2024. Although today was smooth sailing, one of the University of Michigan researchers aboard the 130-foot ferry knew the lake could pack a punch.

Vishnu Vijayasankar, a doctoral student in naval architecture and marine engineering working in Lei Zuo's lab, had seen firsthand how large waves on Lake Michigan could grow during a previous visit to Charlevoix, Mich., the Emerald Isle's port on the Michigan mainland.

"The waves were so violent, I would say probably around 1.5 meters [4.9 feet]," said Vijayasankar. "I was there with my family and a friend, and we were dumbstruck by how huge the waves were. I was actually scared to stand on the shore."

Most engineers might think of the pounding of waves solely as an obstacle to be overcome, but Vijayasankar knew they could be constructive too. The energy in waves can be harnessed to rotate a generator and make electricity. For remote island communities that struggle to stay connected with mainland power infrastructure, wave energy could be an important source of local, sustainable energy.

Vijayasankar was taking the Emerald Isle to one such community on the northeast shore of Beaver Island, around 33 miles away from Charlevoix, Mich. The remote town of St. James was home to around 600 year-round residents who were dependent on an underwater cable to the mainland for electricity. Whenever anything happens to that connection, the Beaver Islanders risk losing power.

Extracting wave energy isn't simple. For starters, the team must build a device that efficiently creates electricity without breaking when the waves grow large or the lake freezes.

"Lake Michigan has a lot of potential, but it also has a lot of variability, so we have to know the right time to get energy out of it," said Vijayasankar. "During October through January, the wave power is high, but it's the same season when the lake could freeze. We need to come up with a perfect design that can withstand freezing temperatures and store energy from these large waves."

Engineers haven't agreed on a framework to determine the best wave energy converter for any given scenario, setting it far behind farm-ready wind and solar energy. This is both an engineering challenge and an opportunity to engage coastal communities in designing energy-harvesting devices that are tailor-made for their environments and needs. Although the Zuo lab already designed and built several wave energy converters, none of their previous devices were built with Beaver Island in mind.

To design a prototype that the residents of Beaver Island actually want in their community, Li and Vijayasankar will issue surveys to learn more about the community's needs and form a community-led panel that provides regular feedback on the prototype. This trip was intended to kickstart that process.

At the community center, they were greeted by Vicky Fingeroot, who has lived part-time on Beaver Island for more than 18 years and became a full-time resident in 2021. She is also the owner of a catering service on the island, and her business not only arranged dinner for the workshop but helped advertise the event to ensure a good turnout.

Vicky Fingeroot, who also owns a catering service on the island, stands near several salads and dips that she prepared for the workshop's dinner. Photo credit: Derek Smith, Michigan Engineering.

Xiaofan Li and Vishnu Vijayasankar, a U-M doctoral student in naval architecture and marine engineering, wait for the Emerald Isle to be secured to the dock at St. James. Photo credit: Derek Smith, Michigan Engineering.

"It's really important; we need something like this here," said Fingeroot, who is also a trustee in St. James Township. "We need community buy-in."

Fingeroot said her eagerness for local, renewable energy to take off on the island stems from one bad experience around two years ago. High winds toppled aerial cables connecting the island's power plant to the underwater cable running to the mainland, leaving the entire island without power, according to a report issued by St. James Township. While the island's main electricity provider—Great Lakes Energy—restored power to the town of St. James the next morning, most of the island didn't have power until two to three days after the storm, the report said.

Vishnu Vijayasankar, a doctoral student in naval architecture and marine engineering, discusses the benefits and feasibility of a wave energy project with Bobbi Welke, the supervisor for St. James Township. Photo credit: Derek Smith, Michigan Engineering.

Frustrations with the island's reliance on a single connection to the mainland drew several residents to the workshop. A few attendees hoped that wave energy could offer reprieve.

"Right now, wind and waves make us fear that we are going to lose power," said Catherine Meintsma, who had been a seasonal resident on the island for over 50 years before becoming a year-round resident five years ago. "Maybe wave energy could reverse that."

The optimistic attendees offered helpful suggestions on how a prototype wave energy generator could plug into the island. Some suggested that the U-M prototype could power a now defunct lighthouse for decorative use. A few even offered to let the engineers test a prototype on their private property.

Other residents were more skeptical. They were concerned about being the guinea pigs for intellectual property that would ultimately go to a private company with little stake in the island's well-being. A few residents worried about whether they had the money and expertise to maintain a device, if one were to stay on the island.

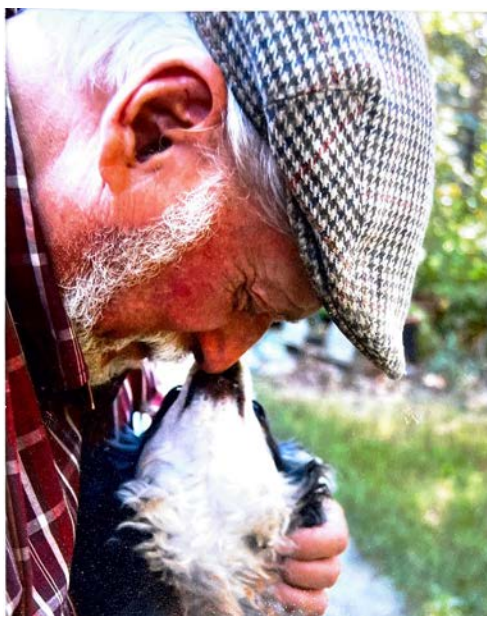
"We hadn't thoroughly considered who the intellectual property would belong to, or who would own and maintain the device," said Li. "We need to work these details out if we're designing the device together." Luckily, 15 residents signed up for the team's wave energy panel to help work out those details, and 21 residents are interested in taking the team's survey.

"I think we got a lot of helpful information and have more than enough people for the next round of follow-up interviews," said Vijayasankar. "We want to be realistic about what we can accomplish, so we'll need to estimate how much power we can feasibly draw from a prototype before we decide what to do. But just powering a light bulb on the island might even help people feel more confident in the technology."

Furbabies of Beaver Island

MY LAST LITTLE PAL

By Capt. Glen



I get tears in my eyes every time

I look at this picture. My sweet little Ronen. A long-haired Chihuahua had a big name that came in a small package but filled it to the max with spirit and love.

I can still see him waiting for me at the end of the driveway. Looking back at me with excitement and love in his eyes. Are you coming, Pa? I would say, Ya, I am coming, pal. I am coming.

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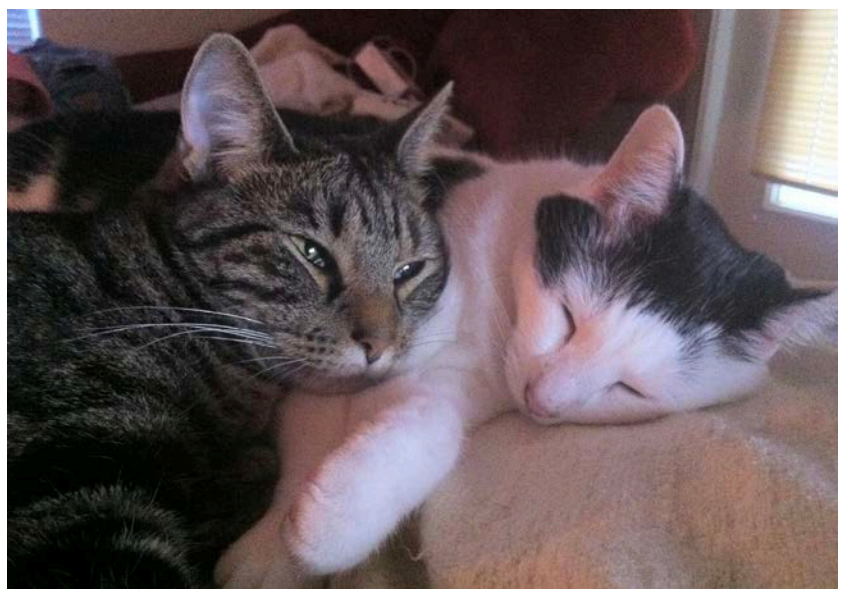
MY LITTLE KITTIES

By Kayleigh Gregg



Mowgli and Leela have been with me since they were kittens. I adopted them about a month apart in 2007—they're both 17! We moved to the island from Tennessee back in 2023 and they're loving their new home. Leela thinks that Mary Scholl has some excellent toys at the Toy Museum and Mowgli has completely fallen in love with snow. Coming from the city, they've been indoor cats their entire lives, so they get very excited for occasional leashed adventures. Leela has been having heart issues as she's aged and Mowgli has small cell lymphoma, but with a little medication and lots of love, they're both thriving. Leela might be the sweetest angel you could ever meet and her gorgeous emerald eyes would melt any heart. Mowgli is quite the conversationalist and knows a lot of words which he tries very hard to pronounce, but I'm still working on understanding his dialect. He's got "Mama" down, though! We're looking forward to many more years with our friends here on

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS JANUARY 2, 2025

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on January 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Four Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Christensen and Commissioner Kenney.

Motion approved the agenda as presented.
Resolution #25-001, Establishing the Term of the Chairperson - No action.
Motion approved to elect a Board Chairperson for a two-year term.
Motion withdrawn to appoint Annemarie Conway as Vice-Chair.
Motion approved to elect Joshua Chamberlain as Vice-Chair.
Motion approved the 2025 meeting schedule as presented.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Audit Committee	2nd Wed. prior to the day Board meeting 8:30 a.m. 4th Wed. prior to the night Board meeting, 5:00 p.m.
Board of Commissioners:	Second Wed., monthly, 9:30 a.m. Fourth Wed., monthly 6:00 p.m.
Committee of the Whole:	As necessary (no set schedule)
Public Safety/Judicial/Building & Grounds Committee:	First Wed., monthly, 9:30 a.m.
Personnel/Internal Government Committee:	Third Wed., monthly, 9:30 a.m.

Motion approved the Audit schedule times, dates, and place, as presented.
Motion approved the 2025 Committee and Liaison Roster as presented.
Motion approved Resolution #25-002, Adopt Rules of Procedures.
Motion approved Resolution #25-003, Depository Resolution.
Motion approved Resolution #25-004, Publications.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:45 a.m.
Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.
Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS JANUARY 8, 2025

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on January 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Chamberlain.

Motion approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-005, Approve County Expenditures.

Motion approved Resolution #25-006, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #25-007, Road Commission Board Salary Increase.

Motion approved Resolution #25-008, Marine Grant Renewal.

Motion approved Resolution #25-009, Beaver Island Meal Program Renewal.

Motion approved Resolution #25-010, Commission on Aging Beaver Island Monthly Meal Agreements.

Motion approved Resolutions #25-011, #25-012, & #25-013, Accepting Donations of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:48 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

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